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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a plan for the CNMI government to go back to the federal Social Security program for its pension program?

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INSIDE



Brink of Insolvency

Benefit claims are pushing the financially strapped Social Security toward the brink of insolvency.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Too Much Love

Tourists love the enigmatic Inca citadel of Machu Picchu high in Peru's Andes. Maybe too much.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

From \$138K, draft budget eyes \$300K for House leaders. **PAGE 3**
Buckingham: Unethical? Victims? Puh-leeze! **PAGE 4**

Fund lifespan down to 3 years

» **Due to \$100M reserve fund, declining revenue, volatile market**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

From a lifespan projected to last just five years a year ago, the NMI Retirement Fund's pension program is now estimated to last just three years, if the current trajectory continues, due to "material changes" affecting the program, according to Wilshire Associates principal Maggie Ralbovsky yesterday. **See FUND on Page 4**

Ex-UFO president Ramon Awit, 43

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Former United Filipino Organization president Ramon Awit died peacefully at the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday. He was 43.



Awit

Awit was pronounced dead by hospital staff at 3:50pm or 20 minutes after the life support machine that sustained him was unplugged. Awit, a prominent figure in the Filipino community, suffered a massive stroke at past 5pm on Saturday at Aqua Resort Club where he worked as a restaurant. **See EX-UFO on Page 4**



RAINY VACATION

Amid heavy rain in the past few days, tourists make the best of their vacation as they walk from one retail establishment to another in Garapan yesterday afternoon. The CNMI tourism industry is still reeling from the effects of the March triple disasters in Japan, with the Marianas Visitors Authority reporting a 17-percent drop in tourist arrivals—from 28,372 in June 2010 to 23,604 in June this year.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Casino bill eyed to pass Thursday without Saipan delegation chair

» **SNILD shakeup may also be in the offing**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

A controversial Saipan casino gambling legalization bill will be acted on—and is expected to pass—during a session Thursday afternoon despite a formal request from Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation



Palacios

chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) to hold off until after he returns from Korea on Aug. 30.

There may also be a shakeup in the delegation leadership, primarily to oust Tebuteb, other members said.

Members of the House leadership reiterated yesterday that there are enough votes to pass House Local Bill 17-44.

Delegation vice chair Rep. **See CASINO on Page 4**

Libya rebels in Tripoli, Gadhafi defenses collapse

Euphoric Libyan rebels race into the capital Tripoli on Sunday and moved close to center with little resistance as Moammar Gadhafi's defenses collapsed and his regime appeared to be crumbling fast.

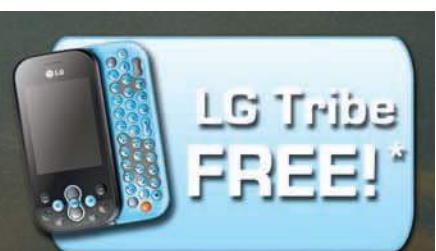
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Local

'US credit downgrade no big impact on investments'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund investment consultant Wilshire Associates said yesterday that the recent credit downgrade received by the U.S. has no immediate impact on the CNMI's market investments. Wilshire principal Maggie Ralbovsky said the United States' credit rating remains the highest.

S&P is the first credit agency to topple the United States from its longtime triple-A credit rating perch when it downgraded this to AA+. The rating agency believes the fiscal consolidation plan that the U.S. Congress and White House agreed to falls short of what would be necessary to stabilize the government's medium-term debt dynamics.

Ralbovsky said yesterday that

S&P is just one the three international credit rating agencies—with Fitch Rating and Moody's as the other two—that provide rating performance.

She explained that if these three rating firms rate an entity differently, "this entity is considered split rated and a split entity is considered having the higher rating."

"In the near term, no [impact] really," she said, adding that

the United States' ratings with Moody's and Fitch remain at AAA.

"In essence, the downgrade is not a concrete decision factor by financial market players," she said, adding that the downgrade was due to the unclear vision of the U.S. to solve its budget deficit and not because the U.S. Treasury was in fact downgraded.

Yesterday, the Wilshire principal cited several reasons for the continued volatility of the market. Among these is the political uncertainty in the Middle East, the debt crisis in Europe, differing opinions and contrasting views in the U.S. Congress, and others.

She said Wilshire predicts the volatility to remain in the short term.

Ex-convict arrested for 'ice' trafficking gets 2-year term

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has slapped a two-year prison term against an ex-convict who was arrested again on charges of trafficking methamphetamine or "ice."

Wiseman sentenced Jungding Qui to a total of two years in prison for two counts of illegal possession of controlled substance. The sentence is without possibility of parole.

In his order issued last week, Wiseman gave the 37-year-old Qui credit for the 302 days he had already served in jail. He will be released from prison on

Oct. 13, 2012.

After completing his sentence, Qui will be placed on supervised probation for two years. He was also ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, and \$100 probation fee.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Qui with two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance and two counts of illegal possession of controlled substance.

Qui pleaded guilty to two counts of possession of controlled substance as part of a plea deal. The remaining

charges were dropped.

Qui also agreed to assist law enforcers in other drug investigations where he can provide personal knowledge.

Using a confidential source, members of the Drug Enforcement Task Force and Criminal Investigation Bureau were able to buy "ice" from Qui on Oct. 13 and 18, 2010.

On June 30, 2010, Qui was sentenced to 257 days in prison for illegal possession of "ice." He was released that day because he was given credit for the time he had already served in jail. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Fashion show, photo contest at Hard Rock in September

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Teen Talk, a youth organization under the Public School System Youth Development Program, is teaming up with Hard Rock Café Saipan for exciting activities next month.

James Sison, Teen Talk member and Hard Rock staffer, said they plan to hold a "Rock the Junk Fashion Show" and "Photography Contest" on Sept. 23.

"We decided to do this event to promote an eco-friendly environment and teen awareness in the community," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sison said the Rock the Junk Fashion Show competition will have two categories: runway for children 6 years old and below and the eco-friendly fashion show.

Parents who want their children to participate in the runway competition for kids must buy Hard Rock shirts at their merchandise shop between Aug. 16 to 28. These shirts, Sison said, can be designed or styled as long as the Hard Rock symbol is still visible.

The eco-friendly fashion show, meanwhile, is open to all fashion designers of any age. Participants must create cloth-

ing and outfit made of any recyclable materials. "We want to encourage designers to think outside the box and create their own look," said Sison.

The photography contest is open to amateur and professional photographers who can take photos of any eco-friendly or community service events before Sept. 23. Participants must submit three photos that will be posted on Facebook, with the contest winner to be determined based on the number of "likes."

To join the contests or for more information, email james-sison06@gmail.com or call 233-7625.

Jurors empanelled in trial of man in fraudulent driver's license case

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett completed yesterday morning the selection of 14 jurors, including two alternates, who will decide the case of Wei Lin, a Chinese national accused of fraudulently obtaining a CNMI driver's license.

The prosecution and the defense counsel will give their opening statements today, Tuesday, at 9am.

Bennett delayed Lin's trial to today as he is still presiding over the ongoing jury trial of a lawsuit filed by Dr. Masha Maxim, a Canadian dentist who is suing her former employers, Dental Care and its owners.

Attorneys James Norita Camacho and Michael Evangelista are representing Lin. Assistant

U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler is prosecuting the case.

The indictment charged Lin with two counts of document fraud and a count of false statements to a federal agent.

According to the indictment, Li allegedly paid a third-party to obtain the driver's license without meeting the requirements.

Camacho said the case involves Lin who was stopped by a traffic officer and the case was later forwarded to the Department of Homeland Security.

Meanwhile, opposing counsels gave their closing arguments yesterday in the case filed by Maxim against her ex-employers and the ex-employers counterclaim against her.

Attorney Stephen Nutting is counsel for Maxim. Attor-

neys Michael Dotts and Ramon Quichocho are representing Dental Care and its owners, Rodney Stewart and Scot Thompson.

After closing arguments, the judge is expected to provide the jury instructions, then the jurors will begin their deliberation.

The trial began Monday, Aug. 15.

Maxim is suing Dental Care and its owners for terminating her and for allegedly failing to make good on their promises. She is demanding \$386,000 in lost wages and damages from her former employers.

Thompson filed a counterclaim against Maxim for allegedly assaulting him in the clinic. He is seeking \$80,000 from Maxim for lost income and damages. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Rota Hole

From simple shore excursions to challenging cavern dives, the Northern Mariana Islands offers scuba divers a wealth of underwater experiences on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and in the Northern Islands.



Photo by Lian Woo

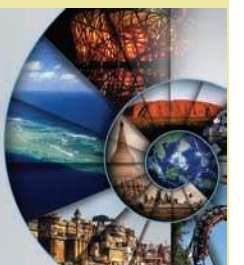
The most popular dive site in Rota is Rota Hole, known to locals as Senhanon Cave, an advanced dive only accessible via boat. The diver enters the cavern from the ocean at about 40 feet. Once inside, the daring diver is greeted by schools of fish and even an occasional lobster. The highpoint and most photographed moment of the dive occurs when the light shining through the opening in top of the cavern falls on a diver otherwise enveloped in darkness, creating what many divers refer to as the "Jesus Experience."

In June 2011, 10 percent (1,487) of all visitors to the Northern Marianas planned to dive during their visit. Rota received 404 visitors in June, largely from Japan and Guam.

Don't let your diving friends miss this fascinating spot!



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From \$138K, draft budget eyes \$300K for House leaders

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

At a time when many government employees are receiving a 16-hour cut per payroll, the House Ways and Means Committee is thinking of more than doubling the House leadership account from the fiscal year 2011 budget law's \$138,000 to \$300,000, based on a draft budget bill dated Aug. 2. As of yesterday, though, the panel indicated that it wants to bring it back to the \$138,000 level.

At the same time, the House panel's third draft gave the Senate leadership \$183,296 in its third draft of the 2012 budget bill.

Historically, the appropriations for the House and Senate leadership accounts have always been the same regardless of the number of members for each chamber.

A fourth draft of the 2012 budget bill was distributed to some House leadership members yesterday, giving \$138,000 again to each of the House and Senate leadership accounts.

But some members said these figures can still change.

The latest draft of the bill also gives each House and Senate member's office account some \$4,300 a month, lower than their current allotment of \$5,900 a month.

This is still higher than what

some members previously said will be given to each member—some \$3,000 a month.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) called yesterday for a session on Friday, but a copy of the agenda has yet to be distributed.

The 2012 budget bill is expected to be pre-filed before Friday's House session, a day after the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation is also expected to pass a controversial Saipan casino gambling legalization bill.

The third draft of the budget bill also combined the appropriations for the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Except for Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), no other member of the House leadership wanted to comment on the third draft of the budget bill.

He said he's only aware of the third draft giving \$300,000 to the House leadership account, and not a fourth one that gives it \$138,000.

Tenorio said he believes the Ways and Means Committee should not change the proposed \$300,000 for the House leadership account.

"We're reducing the individual allotment," he said.

He said the speaker should be given more funds to distribute among committee chairs who do a lot more things than minority members, including holding public hearings and therefore need more allotments.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) also did not want to comment on the third draft, but said the fourth draft is not giving \$300,000 to the House leadership account.

During last year's budget sessions, the House and Senate were deadlocked not only on the work hour cuts but also on the leadership account and each individual lawmaker's allotment, among other things.

Press secretary Angel Demapan also reiterated yesterday the Fitial administration's hope that the Legislature won't allow a second partial government shutdown.

The House and Senate's budget deadlock went past the fiscal year 2011 deadline for passing a budget on Oct. 1, 2010.

With less than two months to go before the start of fiscal year 2012, the House has yet to pass a budget bill.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), in a separate interview yesterday, said the Senate leadership hopes that the House can pass a budget bill as soon as possible "to give the Senate adequate time to review their proposal."

Manglona said the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, chaired

by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), is about ready to wrap up its budget meetings with government agencies and is looking forward to the House's budget bill.

"If it were up to the Senate, we won't allow any shutdown but the Senate and House need to work together," Manglona added.

There's no telling yet whether the House and Senate will pass the 2012 budget on time to avoid another partial government shutdown, but both chambers had already adopted a concurrent resolution approving a \$102 million budget ceiling, as submitted by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on April 1.

Last year's partial government shutdown resulted in the temporary joblessness of over 1,000 employees for several days.

Two containers with commodities finally arrive on Rota

» Super Shuttle's broken generator caused delay

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Two 20-foot containers loaded with commodities for Rota stores finally arrived early Saturday morning after more than two weeks of delay.

A shipping agent from Saipan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the cargos were delivered by *Super Shuttle* at 5:30am Saturday and were cleared and later claimed by customers at 1pm yesterday.

Rota residents experienced a shortage of rice and other supplies last week after the island's stores ran out of stocks. These stores failed to get their scheduled delivery, which is supposed to arrive every two weeks.

As a result, many residents were forced to ask their relatives on Saipan for rice while others resorted to bread and flour as alternative.

Storeowners expressed relief yesterday at the arrival of their supplies. They said a large number of customers trooped to their stores upon learning of the availability of rice.

The Saipan agent, who asked not to be named, said the delay of more than two weeks was due to a broken generator on the *Super Shuttle*, a vessel owned by Seabridge Inc.

The agent confirmed that it took the company a week to buy the spare parts and another week to repair the equipment. The containers, it was learned, have been ready for delivery since two weeks ago but could not be transported due to the non-functioning generator. The generator is used to connect the container to the port entry for loading.

Saipan Tribune learned that this was not the first time that cargo for Rota experienced delays. The usual reason, however, are rough seas and strong waves at the west harbor.

The agent said it is "extremely

difficult" for any vessel to connect to the port because of the harbor situation. This is why, he said, they advise storeowners to accelerate their supplies during the rainy season, usually from June to December every year.

It was learned that only two 20-foot containers are delivered every two weeks for Rota stores.

Super Shuttle first transported its cargo to Guam before it traveled to Rota Saturday. Yesterday, it was scheduled to depart Rota for Tinian.

The Rota Legislative Delegation and the municipality have agreed to relocate the island's harbor to the east side in an effort to jumpstart the island's economy by attracting more vessels and ports activities.

Compared to the west harbor, the east side has a calm bay that can accommodate small and large vessels. A feasibility study is currently underway for the project, which was given a \$25-million funding sourced from CIP monies.

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Angel S. Hocog
Chairperson

Jose I. Sablan
General Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union Board of Directors (BOARD) hereby gives notice that the BOARD has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, August 25, 2011 at 11:00 am at the Credit Union Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

- I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
December 18, 2009
June 28, 2011
 - II. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**
 - A. Collection Status
 - B. Financial Report-Monthly
 - C. Operational Matters
 - III. BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - IV. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Loan Policy
 - B. 2011 Budget Proposal
 - C. TCD
 - V. MISCELLANEOUS**
 - VI. ADJOURNMENT**
- /s/ **Angel S. Hocog**
Chairperson

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AG: Unethical? Victims? Puh-leeze!

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidEE_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Amid the Senate's request to have him investigated, Attorney General Ed Buckingham said yesterday there's nothing unethical about his decision to approve a sole-source contract that will ensure tens of millions of dollars in ARRA contracts will be properly administered, adding that he would have made the same decision to sign off on the contract even today.

Buckingham threw back questions to the Senate: "What did I do that's not ethical? Did I get some money for this contract? Did somebody give me a kickback? Reasonable people can disagree but when one disagrees, that does not make it unethical."

He said "unethical" is such a big word that many do not really understand it.

The attorney general also said former

Commerce secretary Michael Ada and Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan, along with former Finance secretary Bob Schrack, are not "victims," contrary to what senators said last week.

Buckingham and assistant attorney general David Lochabay, the chief of the Office of the Attorney General's Civil Division when the almost \$400,000 sole-source contract was awarded last year, said that Sablan and Schrack, among other government officials, signed off on the contract before that contract reached the attorney general's desk.

The attorney general said he did not influence the decisions of these government officials to sign off on the contract.

"I didn't influence their judgment," he added.

He said only the governor could say

they are a "victim" because the governor was the last one to sign off on the contract.

"Mike Ada, who got the benefit of the contract and is getting money... now admittedly he's working for it, he's earning it, and he's delivering services to the Commonwealth. I make Mike Ada a victim? My comment there is, 'Please,'" Buckingham said.

The attorney general also said he does not feel like he's being turned into a sacrificial lamb or a victim although he said it is "very unfortunate" that these issues take time away from more important matters.

"Am I feeling like a victim? No. I don't feel like a victim. I feel that the Office of the Attorney General and me as the attorney general are subject to public review, to public criticism. I respect that there are and should be different views. What I promise to



Buckingham

Other House members said "it will not be surprising" if members of the leadership also call for a change in the delegation leadership.

But other members, like Palacios, said he hopes it will not come to that. "It's bad enough that we're going into session without the chairman. But let's see what will happen on Thursday," he said.

Palacios is chairman of the delegation's JGO Committee, which had concluded that the local bill is constitutional and recommends passage of HLB 17-44, Committee Substitute 1, which is almost

similar to Torres' original bill.

"We stand by the opinion of the House legal counsels and the committee findings," Palacios added.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of the bill, reiterated yesterday that the bill will be passed in the upcoming delegation session.

"We have at least 12 or 13 votes," he said.

Other members of the leadership, including Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), echoed Torres' statement.

The casino bill only needs a simple majority vote. There are 21 members

of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation—18 members of the House and three members of the Senate. The bill needs 11 votes to pass.

The Senate leadership had long made known its position to bring the matter to court if and when the delegation passes the casino bill. Senators said the bill is unconstitutional.

Buckingham also said he's grateful that Lochabay was willing to say something on the matter.

He said the only regret he has is if this matter causes any harm or embarrassment to the hardworking people of the OAG.

Buckingham and Lochabay said the AG's decision to sign off on the contract considered all the things happening at the time the contract was

presented—the tens of millions of dollars in ARRA contracts that had to be administered, running the risk of losing ARRA money and having the federal government coming down on the CNMI if ARRA was not properly administered, the validity of the contract, the sole source justification approved by Procurement and Supply, having the then acting Commerce secretary saying that Commerce could not administer ARRA, the risk of waiting for three to six months to wait for bids, and not having any concerns raised by the Office of the Public Auditor.

"Do I regret the decision that I made? No, I do not," Buckingham said. "Now someone wants to criticize now. That's easy to do."

The Senate adopted last week a resolution asking the CNMI Bar Association to investigate Buckingham for alleged ethical violations when he approved a sole-source contract for ARRA management.

committee report for signatures yesterday afternoon.

Yumul said the report is still considered a "draft" until it's actually submitted to the SNILD chairman.

The Ways and Means Committee recommends that the full body of the Saipan delegation "shall decide upon House Local Bill 17-44."

"After considerable discussion, your Committee cannot gather enough past financial reports to support the intent of House Local Bill No. 17-44..." the committee said in its draft report.

CASINO

From Page 1

Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), who issued a memo yesterday calling for an Aug. 25 session at 1:30pm, said the decision to go ahead with a session without Tebuteb was reached after yesterday's meeting of the House leadership and the delegation's Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

"We're ready to go for it. We will let nature take its course," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

FUND

From Page 1

Among these changes are the recent court order requiring a \$100-million reserve for Fund members, the central government's continued failure to remit its employer contributions, and the volatile stock market where a large part of the Fund's assets are invested.

Ralbovsky, in a presentation yesterday to the board of trustees, emphasized that there's "no way the pension plan can invest out its assets because there's no possible return that can save the Fund in this current condition."

It is therefore important for the Fund to refocus its strategy and protect its liabilities, to avoid significant losses arising from the market downturn, she said.

Wilshire has been the Fund's investment consultant since October 2010, taking over from Merrill Lynch.

"A year ago...we were projecting that the Fund has five to six years of life. Fast forward today—after significant material changes—we're looking at a three-year investment horizon before the Fund is depleted if the current trajectory continues," Ralbovsky said.

The Fund has over \$300 million in its investment portfolio. With the court mandating a \$100-million reserve for retirees, this will further reduce the portfolio level.

Based on Wilshire's projection, factoring in a \$125 million reserve fund for members, the pension program will only have \$180 million available for benefit payments in fiscal year 2011. This is estimated to go down to \$135 million in fiscal year 2012 and further down to only \$84 million in fiscal year 2013.

Ralbovsky said that benefit payments, under the same three-year trajectory, will amount to \$68.4 million

for the first fiscal year; \$69.5 million in the second year; and \$71 million in the third year.

Also factored in the calculation is the government's expected contribution of \$10 million starting fiscal year 2012, based on the government's proposed budget.

Wilshire also projects low investment returns for the next three years: 4.9 percent in fiscal year 2011; 4.1 percent in 2012; and 3.4 percent in 2013.

For the Fund's lifespan to last up to 10 years, Ralbovsky said the central government has to remit \$58 million a year in contributions.

The government's delinquent contributions have forced the Fund to aggressively drawdown assets for benefit payments, amounting to \$70 million a year.

Focus on future

Responding to strong comments from board members yesterday, Ralbovsky said that there's no way for the Fund to be saved other than to focus on the future of the pension program.

Since the Fund cannot invest and collect from the government, she said the board should instead focus on the liability side to protect its members.

Ralbovsky recommended the adoption of a "glide path," an asset allocation policy that will rebalance asset levels, streamline operations, and reduce time lag between decisions and actions.

On an ongoing basis, when benefit payments are due, Wilshire recommends that assets be withdrawn from various index funds. This practice, Ralbovsky said, will greatly reduce transaction and custody/settlement costs.

Challenges

Among the major challenges for the CNMI investment program is the Fund's near-term liquidity needs, which

Ralbovsky says restricts the Fund's investment horizon. She said the investment horizon of three years is finite and very short.

"Most public pension plans backed by their plan sponsors [governments] with required contributions enjoy one of the highest priorities of a government's budget. Therefore, they are usually considered a perpetuity for investment horizon purposes. The NMIRF, on the other hand, supports a closed pension plan, with no more new entrants. Over 80 percent of the actuarial accrued liabilities belong to the participant groups that are already receiving benefits," she told the board.

The Fund, she added, has very low-risk tolerance; a de-risking strategy should be implemented as soon as possible. De-risking, she said, means gradually taking money out of the stock market and putting it in the bond market.

Restore solvency

According to Wilshire, in order for the Fund to last 10 years, market returns need to be over 25 percent every year for 10 years—which is zero probability considering the volatile market.

The government should also be required to contribute \$58 million every year for 10 years, which again, is close to zero probability.

The only choice for now, Ralbovsky said, is to "share the pain" for the long-term solvency of the Fund. That means restructuring retirees' benefits.

"The Fund cannot invest out of its trouble. It has also lost its window in winning back contributions owed to it by government agencies," Ralbovsky said. "Wilshire believes the Fund now must face the reality and should not miss the window of restructuring its liabilities. If this window is again lost, the Fund is expected to cease benefit payments within three years."

EX-UFO

From Page 1

manager.

Awit's wife, Annamae Adaza, said that she and daughter Ramhae, 8, were on their way to Fiesta Resort & Spa in Gapan for the Saipan Lions Clubs induction of officers when she got a call from Aqua Resort staff about her husband.

Awit is also survived by two sons, 16-year-old Riggz and 14-year-old Ronn.

"A lifeguard noticed Ramon holding his chest while walking from the fitness center going to the office," she recounted. "He followed Ramon and caught him when he collapsed. An ambulance brought him to the hospital."

Adaza said she was told by doctors that a vein had ruptured in Awit's brain, leaving the left side of his body paralyzed. He was declared brain dead and the life support machine was the only thing that kept him breathing.

Adaza disclosed that Awit was already feeling chest pains two days before the incident but didn't want to go to the hospital for fear of being admitted.

"He made himself throw up after which he felt better," she added.

According to Adaza, they would always talk as a family whenever Awit experiences bouts of chest pains.

"That day, Ramon talked to me and my kids. He told our eldest to take care of his siblings and he asked me to be in charge when he's gone," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Adaza also revealed that it was Awit's wish to be spared of pain and suffering if it came to a point where his family has to choose between keeping him alive and unplugging the machine that sustains his life.

Making the decision

But making the decision wasn't easy for Adaza, who had to consult with

Awit's family in the Philippines.

A native of Iloilo, Awit had eight siblings who wanted him flown to the Philippines to seek medical treatment.

Dr. Chad Lowe, doctor of internal medicine, noted that Awit's condition was "very bad" and is "not fixable."

"Our prognosis is at this point, there's no more brain activity there and the best thing to do now is to honor his last wish," said Lowe, who explained the same thing to Awit's siblings over the phone.

Saying farewell

The hall leading to the intensive care unit of CHC was filled with family and friends all wanting to say their last goodbye to Awit.

Boy Ching, former UFO vice president, described Awit as civic-minded, sociable, and always willing to give a helping hand when he can.

"I will miss him as a friend. It's hard to find a friend like him these days," said Ching, who is godfather to Awit's daughter.

Bernard Malonzo, who works at Saipan World Resort, said he and Awit had been friends since 1991. "I've known him for so long and I know that he'll be with you through thick and thin. He's the best," he said.

UFO president Bong Malasarte, who met Awit through the MDX Amateur Radio Club, said he was a very supportive friend and a good leader.

Northern Marianas Bartenders Association president Lito Espino said Awit was fun to be with and benevolent. "I lost a very good friend," he added.

Awit was president of the United Filipino Organization from February 2007 to February 2008. UFO is the umbrella organization of Filipino groups in the Commonwealth.

A nightly rosary and novena was begun yesterday at 7:30pm at the CHC Chapel. Plans are underway for Awit's remains to be flown to the Philippines for burial.

Chuuk community in NMI to hold election for governor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Chuuk community in the CNMI are going to cast their votes in a special election for the governor of Chuuk State tomorrow, Wednesday, at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

There are 3,000 Chuukese in the CNMI and most reside on Saipan; about

500 are voters.

Local courts deputy marshal Gideon Kikku, one of the Chuukese community leaders in the CNMI, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they are encouraging all Chuukese voters to come out and exercise their right to vote for their governor.



Kikku

Kikku, who is the press relations officer for the Chuukese community, said the voting will begin at

7:30am and will close at 5pm.

The governor's position is vacant after Chuuk Gov. Wesley Simina became a member of Federated States of Micronesia Congress, representing the island.

An FSM governor's term is four years. Simina was serving his second term as governor when he resigned last month after being elected to the FSM Congress.

The winner in the special

election, Kikku said, will serve Simina's remaining term from August 2011 to March 2013.

There are three candidates—Lt. Gov. Johnson Elimo, former FSM vice president Red-

ley Killion, and FSM Social Security administrator Alexander Narruhn.

FSM is composed of four states—Chuuk, Yap, Pohnpei, and Kosrae. Chuuk is the most populous of the FSM states.

Writ of execution to collect \$629K from Pelisamen OK'd

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court on Friday granted the U.S. government's request for a continuing writ of execution to collect \$629,096.60 from convicted former estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett ordered the clerk of court to issue the continuing writ of execution

to assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Cruz, who is representing the U.S. government.

A writ of execution is a court order that allows for the collection of money or property owed by a judgment debtor.

The U.S. government filed the application in court on Thursday. In it, assistant U.S. attorney Mikel W. Schwab said that the U.S. government will intervene in a probate case pending in local courts in order

to get its share in the possible distribution of heirship money from Pelisamen.

The federal court had ordered Pelisamen in January 2010 to pay a \$200 special assessment fee and \$625,775 in criminal restitution for wire fraud, conspiracy to wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Cruz said that Pelisamen still owes \$340 of the special assessment fee and \$629,096 in criminal

restitution.

Cruz said they just learned that Pelisamen is an heir to the Dolores Pelisamen estate and may be entitled to distributions in the estate.

Pelisamen used to serve as administrator of his grandmother's, Rita Kaipat's, estate, which received \$1.37 million in distribution.

Pelisamen was convicted and has been serving a five-year prison term.

NMC instructor is named president of American Pacific nursing council

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Johnny Aldan, a nursing instructor at the Northern Marianas College, was elected president of the American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council during the organization's 33rd annual conference in Chuuk.

Aldan will serve as the organization's leader for the next two years and will lead next year's conference in Kosrae.

The council is an organization established over 30 years ago with the goal of promoting communication, collaboration and capacity-building among nursing and midwifery leaders of Pacific Island countries formerly or currently associated with the U.S. government.

"We are very proud of Johnny being elected president of the APNLC. We look forward to the contributions he will make to improve and advance nursing leadership in the American Pacific," said NMC nursing director Rosa M. Tudela.

Aldan and fellow NMC nursing instructor John W. Cox at-

tended the conference earlier this year, and met with many nursing leaders from various islands to discuss key issues related to nursing care for the people in the American Pacific. This year's conference theme was "Nurses Navigating Forward."

"As president I hope to establish a scholarship program in the Council that will help at least one student per jurisdiction pursue a nursing degree at a U.S. accredited institution. Also, I hope to create a task force within the council and each jurisdiction in order to work more closely with the World Health Organization to combat the non-communicable diseases problem," said Aldan yesterday.

Aldan was previously elected president of the APNLC in 1995 and 1999. Aldan has been an instructor at the NMC nursing department for three years. Prior to this, he worked as a nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center for almost 30 years. Participation in the APNLC conference was made possible through funding from the CNMI Area Health Education Center at NMC.

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Life in Motion

Arts council won't be footing artists' airfare to Guam

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture will not be able to sponsor the airfare of local artists who want to participate in the 24th Guam Microne-

sia Island Fair in October. “We don’t have any funding for the event,” executive director Angel S. Hocog said. “What we can do is help those interested artists through coordination with the Guam Visitors Bureau, just like last year.”

The Guam Micronesia Island Fair is the annual signature cultural event in Guam coordinated by the Guam Visitors Bureau that showcases and celebrates the vibrant cultures of Micronesia. The 24th Guam Micronesia Island Fair is slated for Oct. 14

to 16 at the Gov. Joseph Flores Memorial Park at Ypao Beach, located on Pale San Vitores Road in Tumon, Guam. While participating artists from the CNMI will have to pay for their own airfare, Hocog said the Arts Council will coordinate

with GVB, which will take care of the artists’ hotel accommodations, meals, and ground transportation.

“It’s sad that we’re not able to fully support the artists by subsidizing their trip to Guam for this event, the way we did in previous years,” he told *Saipan Tribune*. “But we do encourage them to take part in this event if they can manage to pay for it because it’s a good opportunity for them.”

Hocog noted that the Guam Micronesia Island Fair will give CNMI artists more exposure since

the event draws thousands of spectators each year. Last year’s event alone saw about 20,000 local and off-island visitors.

“There’s more opportunity there because more people participate in the Guam Micronesia Island Fair. The event will definitely help promote our artists’ works of art,” he added.

Hocog urged interested artists to register with the Arts Council if they want to take part in the event. Deadline for registration is on Sept. 20.

For more information, call 322-9982 or 9983.



WEEKEND BAZAAR
Vendors sell their wares—from new and used clothing to electronics, kitchenware, plants, books, perfume, accessories, among other things—in front of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe on Saturday. This open-market concept has become a regular Saturday feature on Saipan, which also has a Saturday farmers market at the Civic Center, also in Susupe, where fresh fruits, vegetables, ornamental plants are being sold.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Man who beat up wife gets 12-day sentence

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a 12-day prison term on a man who beat up his wife when she joined him and his friends in a drinking session in Chinatown. Wiseman sentenced 50-year-old Henry Pangelinan Castro to a year in prison, all suspended except for 12 days, for assault and battery, with credit for the 12 days he had already served in jail. This means Castro will no

longer serve further jail time. In an order issued last week, Wiseman placed Castro on one year of supervised probation, required him to write a letter of apology to the victim, and prohibited him from consuming any alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs during his probation. Castro was also directed to pay a \$100 fine, \$100 probation fee, and \$25 court assessment fee. The Office of the Attorney

General had charged Castro with assault and battery (domestic violence), disturbing the peace, and interfering with a domestic violence report. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea deal. The remaining charges were dropped. Castro beat up the victim on April 17-18, 2011. According to the police report, the wife arrived at their house and saw Castro drinking with some

friends outside the residence. The victim sat at the table but her husband grabbed her shoulder, pulled her out and yelled at her to go inside. He later pulled her hair and slapped her. The friends stopped the suspect, prompting the victim to run inside the house where she called the police. The suspect followed inside the house and grabbed the phone away from her, police said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos has imposed a six-month prison term on a man convicted of disturbing the peace of a female minor.

In a separate case, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a 30-day prison term on a man who disturbed the peace of United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed and damaged another person’s pickup truck.

On Thursday afternoon, Inos sentenced Duansheng Hong to six months in prison, with 30 days not subject to parole, for four counts of disturbing the peace.

Hong, a Chinese national, also known as Peter Hong, was given credit for time served. He was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine. He will start serving his sentence on Aug. 26, 2011.

Assistant attorney general Peter Prestley recommended an eight-month term, while defense attorney Joseph Norita Camacho recommended a one-day sentence, with credit for the one day Hong had already served in jail.

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* after the sentencing that he will be meeting with Hong to discuss if they will appeal or not.

After a two-day bench trial, Inos handed down a not-guilty verdict on three counts of stalking in the second degree. The judge, however, convicted Hong of four counts of disturbing the peace.

Police said a couple went to the police on Sept. 14, 2010, to file a disturbing the peace complaint against Hong. The couple alleged that Hong has been stalking their daughter and her boyfriend.

At the trial, Camacho argued that the text messages the girl received came from someone else and not from Hong.

Camacho said the girl’s boyfriend testified that he once asked Hong to help him pay for an airline fee so he could change his airline ticket and return to Saipan from the U.S. mainland.

Camacho said the boyfriend stated that he and Hong are close friends.

Meanwhile, Govendo last week sentenced Joaquin H. Tenorio to five years in prison, all suspended except for 30 days, for two counts of criminal mischief.

Govendo sentenced the 22-year-old Tenorio to six months in prison, all suspended except for 30 days, for assault and disturbing the peace, in the second case.

The sentence runs concurrent with the other case. This means that Tenorio will serve a total of 30 days, with credit for two days, for the two cases. He will begin serving his sentence on Sept. 1, 2011. Upon his release, he will be placed on supervised probation for five years.

Tenorio will be required to undergo anger management counseling, pay jointly with co-defendants in restitution to Ellis Miller in the amount of \$8,000, perform 100 hours of community work service, pay a \$200 fine, plus court costs and fees.

He was ordered to write a letter of apology to Miller and Syed.


The Office of the Attorney had charged Tenorio with two counts of criminal mischief and one count of minor consuming alcohol. In the second case, the OAG charged Tenorio with assault and disturbing the peace.

Tenorio and counsel signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to two counts of criminal mischief in one case, and pleaded guilty to assault and disturbing the peace in the second case.

The agreement stated that on Feb. 9 and 10, 2008, Tenorio along with Patrick Torres and Anthony Norita threw rocks at Miller’s vehicle and jumped on it, causing the windows to fracture. The suspects were under 21 at the time and were drunk.

In the other case, on Feb. 26, 2011, Tenorio called Syed and threatened to harm him and his family. Syed said the caller threatened to chop off his neck, hands, and feet and kill his family for his advocacy work.

Syed, a Bangladeshi national, is married to a local. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
Office of the Secretary
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Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is hereby announcing its intention to submit its Abbreviated State Plan for Fiscal Year 2012. In addition to the fourteen (14) assurances which the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are mandated to comply with, and the Program Integrity Assessment in order to receive the grant, we are also required to report on the progress, accomplishments, and problems that we have encountered within the last couple of years of the program. The LIHEAP Program generally provides cooling/utility/power assistance to eligible low-income households.

We are notifying affected individuals, specifically those who are qualified low-income, elderly, and/or disabled, other interested individuals, and the general public who may be interested in participating in the development of this plan to please contact Mr. George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor and Mrs. Gregoria O. Sablan or Mr. Frank Iglecias, the LIHEAP Staff at the DCCA LIHEAP's Office at telephone numbers 664-2568 or 664-2569. For more information and inquiry, please call the said telephone numbers, or visit our Office located at Capitol Hill House#1341.

Community meetings will be conducted on Rota, Tinian and Saipan as scheduled below. Any and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Dipattamenton Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA), Prográman Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) ginen este ha anununsia I intension-ña na para u rinueba iyon-niha Abbreviated State Plan para I Fiscal Year 2012. Komu ma'aomenta hálum i katotsi (14) gi Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Marianas put para u ma'otdin para i kinimpli ni, yan I Pgram Integrity Assessment anai siña para u marisibi I saláppi', ya manmadimánda han lokkui' para u maripot todú I adilántu, kinemplidu yan problema siha ni ma'ekspirensia gi halum I manma'pus na sákkan I prugráma. I LIHEAP na prográma henerátmente ha pribininiyi (cooling/kándet) na klasen ayudo para ayu siha na familia I man takpapa suetdon-niha.

In nutitisia ayu siha na petson I man inafefekta espesiátmente para ayo I man kuálifikao na man ámko, yan/man inuitit, yan pumalu siha na individuát ni man interesao, yan I pupbliku henerát komu man interesao man pattisiapao gi man plánum este na inadulánta para u ma'ágang si Siñot George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor, yan Siñora Gregoria O. Sablan, Siñot Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff, gi DCCA ofisinin gi este siha na numirun tilifon 664-2568 pat 664-2569.

Para u guaha siha inekungok publiku para ufan ma kondukta giya Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Todú eyu siha man interesao na petsona man masosohyu para u ma'atiende este siha na inekungok.

Para más infotmasion pat finaisen, pot fabot ágang I tilifon siha ni ma'mensiona pat bisita I ofisiná-ta giya Capital Hill, Numiron I gima #1341.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Dipattamentool Lemelemil Sóóbw me Kko (Community me Cultural Affairs - DC&CA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) sángi milleel nge ekké arongaar toulap igha ekké mángiyy bwe ebwe fééru sefáliiy yaar State Plan reel ráágh ye 2012. E pwal aschuuschu ngáli milikkewe seigh me faawu (14) ikka re akkulééw ngáli Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands reel igha ebwe mmwelil bweibwogh selaapi, me kkeamalul programma, nge e bwal allégh ngáli ghamam bwe aybwe fféer ripood reel meeta kka e ghatch, weires ikka e ghal yoor fitoowula ráágh mwir igha eyoorota progróoma yeel. Mille LIHEAP nge e ayoora alillis reel apatapat/dengkki me alillis ngaliir schookka eghi sossol abwossuur.

Aykke arongaar schookka re toolong llol alillis yeel ikka eghi sossol abwossuur, tuufey/ikka rese bwang, me ikka re mwuschal fengal me toulap ikka re tipali bwe rebwe toolong llol progrooma yeel bwe rebwe fláingir Sómwár George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor, me Ilimwár Gregoria O. Sablan me/ngare Sómwár Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff reel numurool tilifon kka 664-2569 ngare 664-2568 me ngáre tooto llól Bwulasiyo iye elo Capitol Hill house #1341.

Ebwe yoor arongorong ngáliir toulap wóol Luuta, Tehúluyól me Seipél. Aramas ye e tipáli nge rekke tingór ngáliir bwe rebwe tooto llól iyeélagh kkaal.

Venue	Scheduled Dates	Time
Rota-Rota Aging Center	August 24, 2011	6:00 pm
Tinian-Tinian Gymnasium	August 29, 2011	6:00 pm
Saipan-Multi Purpose Center	August 30, 2011	6:00 pm

/S/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
Secretary, DCCA

Date: 08/19/2011

Dandan children's playground needs more volunteers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More volunteers are needed to help maintain Dandan Homestead Children's Park, which is set to open soon.

Frank Camacho, Dandan Neighborhood Watch Task Force block captain, said that several residents already volunteer their time every other Saturday to help do yard work at the children's park. Volunteers spend about four hours or a half-day's work.

"We get about eight to 20 volunteers, depending on the availability of the people. But Dandan is a big village and we'd like to get more volunteers," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Some 15 volunteers did bush cutting and raked leaves and trash at the children's park last Saturday morning.

"We're trying to help out our captain with the park to get the kids to start using the facility," said Eric Cruz, one of the volunteers.

Cruz, who volunteered for the fourth time, encouraged volunteers from neighboring villages like San Vicente and Kobler-



Volunteers of the Dandan Neighborhood Watch Task Force pose for a group photo during their cleanup at the Dandan Homestead Children's Park on Saturday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

ville to pitch in.

"Volunteers are important and needed in maintaining the cleanliness of our park. I'm a businessman and I sacrifice my time in the business, with fam-

ily and friends to be here. I hope we can all have time to spare for this," he added.

Marlena Castro, 16, said she started volunteering her time with the task force a few weeks

ago to help out in her village and for her community service requirements at the Saipan Southern High School.

"I follow where the Neighborhood Watch goes," she said. "It keeps me out of trouble."

Castro encouraged other youth in their village to join in the efforts of the Neighborhood Watch Task Force. "Speak out and see what's going on. It will give you a sense

Cuthbert Project, GCC partnership awarded \$85.87K Interior funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta signed Friday a grant for \$85,874 to support the efforts of the Cuthbert Project through its new partner, the Guam Community College.

The Cuthbert Project, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to helping build capacity and increase opportunities for students in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. The funding will support the collaborative efforts between GCC and the Cuthbert Project, increasing the project's outreach in Chuuk to provide essential developmental Eng-

lish language skills as well as supplementing Chuuk's efforts to establish the infrastructure necessary to ensure that educational opportunities are extended to these students.

"This collaboration between the GCC and the Cuthbert Project will greatly benefit the students of Micronesia. The effort demonstrates the important role non-governmental organizations can have to fill gaps where a need exists. In the case of the Cuthbert Project, which is spearheaded by Bill Hagen, I am truly pleased to know that Guam's business community has also been sup-

portive and I encourage their continued involvement. The Cuthbert Project ensures that vulnerable Micronesian populations are not left behind, it builds capacity, and ensures that students are equipped with essential skills for success," said Babauta.

Funds will go toward the purchase of laptops, projectors, Rosetta Stone software licenses and additional supplies. Courses offered through the Cuthbert Project introduce students to personalized learning games that address a comprehensive interactive curriculum. (OIA)

OIA funds ambulances for Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, has authorized the award of \$500,000 to the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands to support the operations and delivery of emergency medical services throughout the territory.

The Virgin Islands Emergency Medical Service, a division of the Virgin Islands Department of Health, is the designated recipient of the grant from fiscal year 2011 funds. VIEMS is responsible for operating and managing 365 days/24-hour ambulance service on all three islands and it will use \$180,000 to purchase new ambulances and \$320,000 to appropriately stock and maintain its existing fleet of overworked ambulances.

"I am very sensitive to the growing challenges that public

health institutions in the Virgin Islands and the other Insular Areas are facing with trying to maintain standards and delivering excellent medical service in an era of shrinking public dollars and exploding medical cost," said Babauta. "After consulting with Governor John deJongh and Delegate Donna Christensen, I am satisfied that the investment we are making in VIEMS with our limited dollars is the right one to make at this time. We all can agree that investing in reliable and well stocked ambulances is truly an initiative that will serve all Virgin Islanders when it is needed most."

DeJongh said he was heartened by the announcement of the award to purchase ambulances and support emergency medical services in the territory. "This action not only reflects on the ben-

efits that flow from our efforts to maintain good relations with our federal partners, but the focused and effective leadership of Assistant Secretary Babauta. The Assistant Secretary has time and again demonstrated his commitment to healthcare and to offering assistance which allows the territories to provide basic improvement in the quality of life for children and families."

"As a former Assistant Commissioner of Health who had responsibility for Emergency Medical Services, I know how much this is needed. Being able to reach an emergency victim quickly and fully equipped can mean the difference between life and death. I thank Assistant Secretary Babauta for always being sensitive to our needs and his commitment to the Virgin Islands," said Christensen. (DOI)

of fulfillment."

Camacho said the children's park has been around for over two years but it was only recently when they had the two pavilions and the basketball court at the park renovated through the \$50,000 Commonwealth Development Block Grant administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation also donated \$5,000 to purchase the playground equipment installed at the park, he said.

This week, Camacho said they will put four loads of sand given by the Coastal Resources Management to level the children's playground.

"Hopefully, we will open the park for the use of the kids and everybody in the community by early September," added Camacho.

The NMI Retirement Fund is pleased to inform its members and the general public that the Fund will be holding a

PUBLIC FORUM.

The Fund's Investment Consultant, Wilshire Associates will be on island to meet with the Board of Trustees and to present the status of the Fund's investments and projected outlook given the current conditions.

The Public Forum will be on

Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at the Multi-Purpose Center at 5:00 p.m.

The Fund is encouraging all active members, terminated vested members, retirees as well as the general public to attend.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW11-IFB-015

LAOLAO BAY DRIVE STREAM CROSSINGS AND BOLLARDS

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are soliciting sealed bids for the construction of **Laolao Bay Drive Stream Crossings and Bollards**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project is funded by an American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) grant administered by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The project consists, in general, of improvement of six (6) stream crossings at specified locations, and installation of 250 linear feet of bollard-and-cable type barriers in four (4) locations along the public beach area of Laolao Bay, and other related work, all in accordance with the plans, specifications, and terms of the contract.

The project package will be available on CD-ROM on or after **August 9, 2011** at the DEQ main office, Gualo Rai Center, Gualo Rai, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at DEQ. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill. Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. This is federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **August 25, 2011**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the main DEQ conference room (second floor). Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 31, 2011** to **Mr. Frank M. Rabauliman Director, Division of Environmental Quality, Gualo Rai Center, P.O. Box 501304**, Saipan, MP 96950-1304. Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Frank M. Rabauliman Director, Division of Environmental Quality, Gualo Rai Center, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950-1304**. The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW11-IFB-015"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 5, 2011**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **September 5, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 5, 2011**, and must be received no later than **September 14, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **September 19, 2011**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on **September 8, 2011**. For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A **surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid**. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC). The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days** upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date. All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ FRANK M. RABOULIMAN
Director, Division of Environmental Quality

Guam gets \$500K grant for new ambulances

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, approved a \$500,000 grant requested by the Government of Guam to purchase new ambulances for the Guam Fire Department's fleet. The one half million dollar grant is sufficient to pur-

chase four new ambulances, maintenance packages for each ambulance, along with the acquisition of two new replacement engines for existing but non-operational ambulances in GFD's fleet.

"The difficulties associated with keeping government fleet vehicles operational is famil-

iar to every insular area. Over the years, fortunately, DOI has been able to provide funding to supplement each government's efforts to ensure an adequate number of emergency vehicles exist to meet the demands of the islands' community," said Babauta. "We hope to be able to continue this type

of support to each island, but we are also encouraging leaders to fund and enact strong maintenance programs to keep essential vehicles on the roads. I commend Guam's leadership for bringing this issue to the forefront and for making this important safety issue a priority." (DOI)

MVA TRAINEES

Twin sisters Milagros, second from left, and Rebekka King, center, received certificates of appreciation from the Marianas Visitors Authority on Aug. 5, 2011, for their assistance as student trainees. For six weeks, Milagros trained with the Research Division while Rebekka trained in the Executive/Admin and Accounting Divisions. Pictured from left are Research staff member LJ Deleon Guerrero, the King sisters, chief accountant Donnie Militante, and managing director Perry Tenorio. The training was conducted under the Workforce Investment Agency Summer Trainees Program.



MVA

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 23, 1999

MHS gets full accreditation

The Marianas High School, the only public high school on Saipan, has received a six-year term accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accrediting Commission for Schools. Six years is equivalent to a full-term award, the longest that a school can get from WASC. Another public school which recently received a full-term accreditation from the commission was Garapan Elementary School. "This is the first time MHS has received such an award," according to principal Jim Denight. "It is evident that MHS students, faculty and staff are among the best in the region. MHS will continue to offer every opportunity to improve the quality of education for its students," Denight added.

BoS seeks to be freed from estate tasks

The Bank of Saipan, executor of the Hillblom Estate, seeks to end its responsibilities over the multi-million estate left by Larry Hillblom, the American millionaire who died in a 1995 plane crash. Attorneys for BoS notified the court about the Executor's plan to file a comprehensive plan to close administration of the Estate, which involves, among other things, the distribution of all remaining noncash and cash assets according to the Heirship Settlement Agreement. "All remaining claims by and against the Estate either have been resolved or in the case of Bassam Jabr Prince Saud, should be resolved shortly," BoS said in a petition filed in the court Friday.

Aug. 23, 2000

Gov't seeks funding to pay health providers

Local officials are racing against time to come up with the much needed amount to settle its unpaid account with two health providers in Hawaii amid threats that the latter will no longer accept patients referred by government's insurance group. The NMI Retirement Fund's health insurance owes Honolulu-based Straub Clinic & Hospital and Queen's Medical Center \$2 million and \$1.8 million, respectively, for the services they have rendered over the years. The two health providers have warned that they will refuse patients from the Northern Marianas unless the Fund's health insurance immediately pays its debt. But while the Fund is hoping to raise money to settle the account, the government's health insurance has detected some discrepancies in the billings provided by Straub.

DPH lifts TB skin test for school children

The Department of Public Health has lifted the tuberculin skin testing requirement for school children following the recommendation by The American Thoracic Society, Center for Disease Control and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. "Screening of low-risk persons is discouraged because it diverts resources from activities of higher priority. In addition, a substantial proportion of tuberculin-test-positive persons from low-risk populations may have false-positive skin tests," the national guideline on tuberculin testing said. However, the immunization program requiring children to take vaccinations in polio, measles, influenza, etc. on the island remains unchanged.

Aug. 23, 2001

\$200K approved for road projects

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday approved the appropriation of \$200,000 for various road projects in Precinct I identified under House Local Bill 12-37. Tenorio said HLB 12-37, now Saipan Local Law 12-17, can expeditiously provide for the improvement projects following confirmations made by the finance department that there is an adequate money to fund the projects including the paving of As Perdido Road to Leon Camacho and Andersina Villagomez Roads. The \$200,000 allocation will be taken from the fees collected under Saipan Local Law 12-17 or the Local Poker Fees.

'Reduce labor costs to attract new investors'

The CNMI government has been asked to initiate programs that would build up a strong local labor force to pave the way for a reduced cost of doing business in the Northern Marianas, thereby, helping the Commonwealth mitigate current investor climate constraints. According to a government economic report, building a local labor force would minimize the islands' dependence on skilled nonresident workers. The report said although labor cost in the CNMI, as seen by American investors, is low, Asian businessmen who are more likely to infuse fresh capital into the CNMI looks at current figures as high.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fund hosts public forum tonight

The NMI Retirement Fund apologizes that the public forum scheduled for last night was postponed and will be held this evening, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2011 at 5pm at the Multi-Purpose Center. The Fund's investment consultant, Wilshire Associates, will be on island to meet with the board of trustees and to present the status of the Fund's investments and projected outlook given the current conditions. The Fund is encouraging all active members, terminated vested members, retirees as well as the general public to attend. (PR)

Oleai Elementary parent/guardian orientation set

This is to inform all parents and guardians of returning and new students of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a parent/student orientation scheduled for Sept. 1, 2011 and Sept. 2, 2011 at 5:30pm, at the school cafeteria. We encourage all parents and guardians to please attend any of the two dates given. (PR)

Kagman Elementary schedule of activities

- Aug. 29, teachers and staffs report to school, 7:30am-4:30pm.
- Aug. 30, school level PD
- Aug. 31, Parent and guardian student orientation day in the school cafeteria. Kindergarten to 3rd Grade, 9-10am
- 4th-6th Grade at 1-2pm
- Sept. 1, school level PD
- Sept. 2, school level PD
- Sept. 5, Labor Day, CNMI legal holiday
- Sept. 6, First day of classes for students, from kindergarten to 6th Grade, Kindergarten (AM) session, 8-11am
- Kindergarten (PM) session, 11:45am-2:45pm.
- 1st to 6th Grade, 8am-2:45pm

Instruction starts at 8am for all elementary schools. Parents and guardians are asked to have their child or children at school before 8am but not earlier than 7:30am. Bus riders are asked to be at the designated bus stop by 6:55am. Bus pick up time is 7am. (PR)

SVES parent/guardian orientation set

This is to inform all parents and guardian of student at San Vicente Elementary School that the parent and guardian orientation for school year 2001-2012 is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 2, from 5pm to 5:30pm in the cafeteria and from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in their respective classrooms. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend. (PR)

GTC Elementary schedule of activities

This is to inform all parents/guardians of the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School that there will be an orientation for parents/guardians this Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011 at 5pm in the school cafeteria to discuss the changes for school year 2011-12, which includes implementation of the multiage classrooms, school hours, and zoning/busing transportation.

Kindergarten orientation: Aug. 23, 2011 at 5pm

STAR Reading & Math Testing for all new students: Aug. 22 - 26, 2011

First day of school: Sept. 6, 2011

Back-to-school Open House for parents and students: Sept. 9, 2011, at 6pm

School supplies for grades K through 6th are available at the school office and at National Office Supply and Modern Stationary

Enrollment is ongoing. Children entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31, 2011. Registration packets are available at the school office. Required documents include birth certificate, school entrance health certificate (blue card from CHC Public Health), map of resident, copy of progress report from last school attended, copy of health insurance, and copy of guardianship/power of attorney (if applicable).

For more information, contact the school at 237-3121/2 or email us at gloria.nauta@cnmipss.org or charlotte.camacho@cnmipss.org. (PR)

SAES parent orientation schedule

The San Antonio Elementary School will hold its parent orientation on Sept. 6 and 7, according to grade levels. The orientation will be in each respective classroom. All parents

are urged to be present to receive important information that will be given out by each classroom teacher. Please be on time.

SEPT. 6

Kinder (AM & PM), 3pm-4pm

4th Grade, 4pm-5pm

5th Grade, 5pm-6pm

6th Grade, 6pm-7pm

SEPT. 7

1st Grade, 4pm-5pm

2nd Grade, 5pm-6pm

3rd Grade, 6pm-7pm

Free business workshops set

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, will be conducting the following free workshops:

■ **How to start a business:** Aug. 23, 9am to 11am

■ **How to write a business plan:** Aug. 24, 9am to 11am

■ **How to read financial statement:** Aug. 25, 9am to 11am

All workshops will be conducted at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office (233-7150), first floor Famila Building, Garapan. For more information contact Ralph Yumul at 664-3018. (PR)

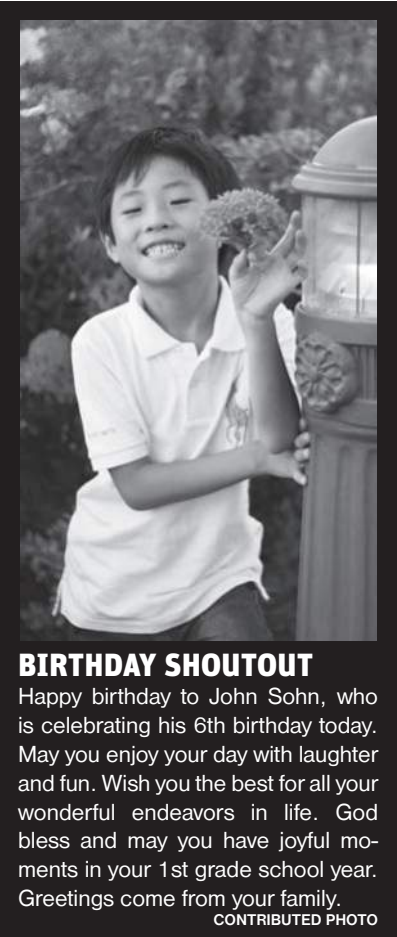
Chacha Jr. High School 7-8 graders orientation on Sept. 2

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School will be having an orientation for 7th and 8th grade students on Sept. 2, 2011, from 9:30am to 10:30am in the cafeteria. Call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any question or concerns. (PR)

Kagman High orientation schedule

Kagman High School will be holding an orientation for freshmen and sophomores on Aug. 25, 2011. The freshmen orientation will be from 9am to 10am, while the sophomore orientation will be from 10:30am to 11:30am. The orientation for juniors and seniors will be on Aug. 26, 2011. Juniors will have their orientation from 9am to 10am, while seniors will have theirs from 10:30am to 11:30am. For more information, call the KHS main office at 237-3840. (KHS)

Island Snapshots



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday to John Sohn, who is celebrating his 6th birthday today. May you enjoy your day with laughter and fun. Wish you the best for all your wonderful endeavors in life. God bless and may you have joyful moments in your 1st grade school year. Greetings come from your family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FRESH PRODUCE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Fresh fruits and vegetables greet residents and tourists at the Sabalu Market in Susupe Saturday morning. The Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Inc. plans to also include as members of their group ranchers and cattle owners on the island, says its president, Ramon B. Camacho, who also chairs the Saipan Municipal Council.



SUMMER READING PROGRAM CLARISSA V. DAVID
Kagman Elementary School student Esther Huh, third from right, receives her certificate of participation for the Joeten Kiyu Public Library Summer Reading Program Challenge from executive director John Oliver Gonzales, Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi, and library assistant Celina Foreman in a ceremony Friday morning. An incoming fifth grader, Huh was awarded the most number of books read for reading 200 books. With Huh is her mom Jenny Baek Huh and dad Daniel Huh.



Siblings Kiana and Froilan Cabrera accept their certificates of participation for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Summer Reading Program Challenge last Aug. 19. Joining the siblings are mom Katrina Cabrera, JKPL executive director John Oliver Gonzales, Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi, and library assistant Celina Foreman.
CLARISSA V. DAVID



Eleven-year-old Manuel Celis Jr. and mom Maryann Manglona hold the PIC Water Park passes awarded to their family by the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library staff in recognition of their efforts in the 2011 Summer Reading Program Challenge. Celis and his 10-year-old sister Maylyn Celis were among the close to 100 participants of the annual program that promotes reading among students during summer vacation. With the awardees are JKPL executive director John Oliver Gonzales, Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi, and library assistant Celina Foreman.
CLARISSA V. DAVID



ENGLISH SUMMER CAMP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of the first English summer camp organized by the Advanced Language & Academic Institute pose for a group photo at its location in San Jose. A total of 35 students took part in the camp, which aimed to teach English language to non-native speakers.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Did health law bring economic doldrums?

By JAMES SHERK

The Heritage Foundation

James Sherk is a senior policy analyst in labor economics at The Heritage Foundation. Readers may write to the author in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at <http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm>.



Why did the recovery stall? President Obama recently chalked it up to "bad luck."

Even in more searching discussions of why the economy remains flat, politicians and economists largely ignore the elephant in the room: the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Private-sector job creation stopped improving almost as soon as Congress passed the act.

This recovery has been anything but normal. Usually the economy accelerates after a deep recession. Entrepreneurs find new ways to employ millions of idled workers, and the economy quickly regains lost ground. The boom following the equally painful recession of the early 1980s enabled President Reagan to campaign on "Morning in America."

Not this time. Two years after the recession officially ended, almost a tenth of workers remain unemployed. Both economic growth and job growth remain sluggish.

Few economists expected this. Throughout 2009 and early 2010, the economy appeared to be recovering steadily, though not spectacularly. Monthly reports of job losses got progressively less bad, improving by an average of 67,000 jobs a month. The White House's mid-2009 economic forecasts—accounting for the depth of the recession and the effects of the stimulus—projected unemployment would fall to 7.5 percent by the 2012 elections.

By the spring of 2010, private sector job growth turned positive. In April job growth increased to 230,000 net private-sector jobs. The economy appeared on track for a normal recovery from an awful recession. The administration began confidently predicting a "Recovery Summer."

But Recovery Summer fizzled instead of sizzled.

In May private sector job growth dropped sharply to less than 50,000 net jobs. Thereafter, monthly improvement in private job growth averaged just 6,500 jobs.

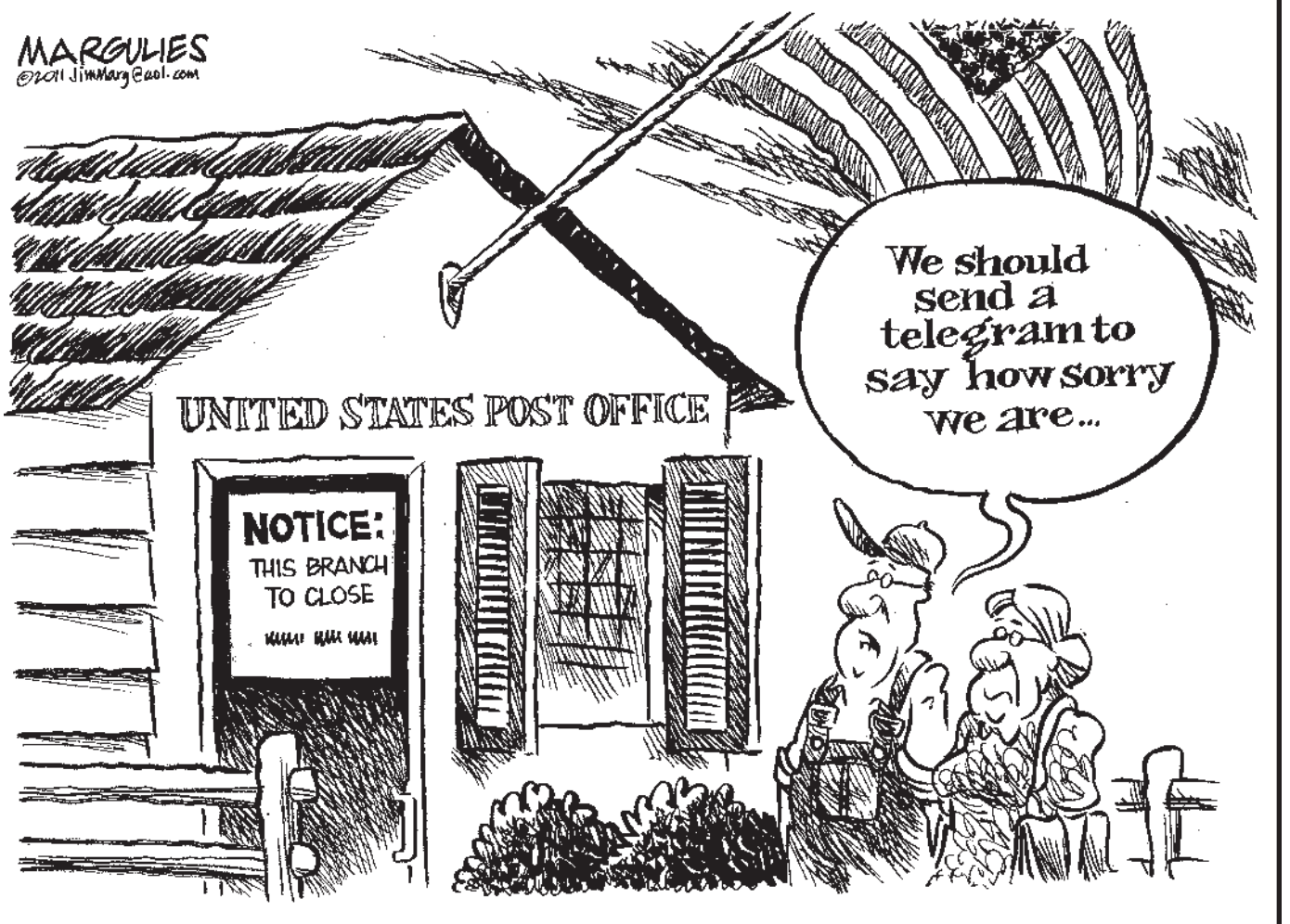
What else happened in the spring of 2010? Despite obstacles that many believed would kill the bill, Congress passed the Affordable Care Act. Within two months, the trend in job growth dropped sharply. Monthly job creation had been on pace to top out in the hundreds of thousands. Post-Affordable Care Act, it has barely kept pace with population growth.

Correlations do not—of course—prove causation. The fact that job growth slowed after Congress passed the Affordable Care Act does not prove that the legislation is at fault. There are, however, good reasons to believe that the law applied the brakes to hiring.

The act will significantly raise business costs. Any company with more than 50 workers must provide (generally more expensive) government-approved health coverage or pay a financial penalty. And any business with fewer than 50 workers has strong incentive to make sure it does not hire a 50th employee.

The law has also made it very difficult for businesses to plan for the future. What will the large group healthcare market look like in five years? No one really knows. How much will it cost to provide health insurance to employees in five years? Businesses can only guess.

See HEALTH on Next Page

MARGULIES
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A new era of renewable energy

Editor's Note: The following is the text of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's remarks for the 6th Annual Chena Renewable Energy Fair, held Aug. 14, 2011, at the Chena Hot Springs Resort in Fairbanks, Alaska.

It is my great pleasure to attend this 6th Annual Chena Renewable Energy Fair here at Chena Hot Springs, where our host Bernie Karl has demonstrated the remarkable potential of alternative energy.

I bring warm greetings from my people in Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands!

The importance of alternative energy to the future of the Northern Mariana Islands cannot be overstated. All of our electricity is generated by imported diesel fuel for which we pay a premium, and we are forced to pass fluctuations in the price of oil directly on to the consumer, often times resulting in the cost of electricity exceeding \$0.40 per kilowatt-hour. Surely, this unpredictability in the cost of our electricity is an enormous deterrent to our economic growth, but an even more serious concern is the certainty of future increases in the cost of petroleum as Asian economies expand and petroleum producers struggle to keep up with demand.

Continued reliance on imported diesel fuel to generate electricity is simply no longer an option for the Northern Marianas. Thus, my administration is taking bold steps to significantly change our energy equation.

Our new net-metering law is designed to encourage private customer generation of alternative energy. With the much appreciated support from the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, we have worked with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory to adequately assess our alternative energy options. We have also created an Energy Task Force, which reports to my office and is charged with leading a collaborative effort between the government and the private sector to wean our economy off of imported fossil fuel.

We are looking at all options, from energy savings through increased efficiencies to alternative approaches to sustainable generation of electricity including wind generation, solar generation, gasification of waste and biomass, and geothermal power. Efficiencies will yield immediate results in the near term but will never, by themselves, eliminate the need to expensive import fossil fuel. Consequently, we are strongly focused on generation of alternative energy both as a supplement and for base load.

We are aggressively exploring the potential of all feasible sources of alternative energy, and we have reason to be optimistic. The average wind velocity over the oceans is higher than over the continents. Solar radiation at our latitudes is significantly higher in comparison to the U.S. mainland. In view of this, we have recently released a Request for Proposal to place up to 10 megawatts of photovoltaic generated electricity on the main island of Saipan and 4 megawatts on the outer island of Rota.

By BENIGNO R. FITIAL

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Benigno R. Fitial is the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



However, from my point of view, the most appealing source of alternative energy will provide 24/7 base-load power and will be resilient to the destructive forces of the strong typhoons that frequently strike our islands. With this in mind, we are actively encouraging private investment in waste-to-energy/gasification generation.

And then there is my favorite target: the generation of electricity by way of geothermal power. Fortunately, the Northern Mariana Islands have geothermal potential. Like Alaska, we have a lot of volcanoes, and a recent assessment by experts from Southern Methodist University determined that surface observations indicate a high likelihood of significant geothermal resources, possibly exceeding 100 megawatts of generating capacity, exists on the island of Pagan.

Our current challenge in utilizing this energy is transporting it to our populated islands and I am always open to ideas on how this may be accomplished. The assessment by SMU, and later, an assessment by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, also determined that tell-tale signs of geothermal potential are also present on Saipan, which is home to 80 percent of the population of the CNMI.

Now, with \$1.2 million in funding assistance recently provided by the Office of Insular Affairs, we will drill one or more holes to depths of at least 2,000 feet to measure the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan, and the scientific results of this project will facilitate informed investment by the private sector.

Like Chena, which has become a prime example of the successes of geothermal energy, I am looking forward to interacting with all of you participating in this Renewable Energy Fair and discussing these projects and any new ideas that you may have to help my government reduce the dependence of the CNMI on imported fossil fuel.

The people of the Commonwealth have long suffered and endured the hardship of keeping up with the rising costs of conventional energy. It is my fervent hope that soon enough, my administration will be able to bring the "spirit of Chena" to the CNMI and usher in a new era of renewable energy for every family, every home.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to join you all here today. In turn, I would like to invite each and every one of you to consider visiting the Northern Mariana Islands in your future travel plans. I can assure you that our pristine beaches, abundance of food, and the warm hospitality of our people will offer you an experience you won't soon forget.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Padre y madre de familia

One of the vivid images I got from this trip is that of my mother sitting on the floor after she lost control of her bladder function, crying out to my youngest brother who stopped by to check on her: "Please do not send me to a nursing home!"

I remember reading of China parents who sued their son for neglect and non-visitation, and although I have three professional siblings who check on my Mom periodically, it has now become clear that Mama needs 24/7 nursing care that even the combined efforts of the three cannot supply.

Nursing home is a nightmare for many seniors. Compensation has replaced compassion among workers, and privatized, the practices of service providers look more at the health of the bottom line before the wellbeing of clients.

The care of elders is a hot potato in the U.S. these days. We took our SVES 6th graders to *man'amko* in an annual retreat not too long ago. Elders and students entertained each other over lunch at the Aging Center in Gualo Rai. Students were assigned to talk to a *man'amko* and listen to their recollection of the past, and write about it. Elders relished the chance to have someone listen to their stories.

Relating to seniors came personally impactful to me because I am the eldest son in my family and traditionally, either the eldest male or the youngest child is vested with the care of parents. Our youngest assumed legal trusteeship of our parents when they needed one, handled well the internment of our father who at an advanced age of 94, gave up his senility in Hawaii.

I had been by default the surrogate *padre de familia* after my Papa pursued graduate studies in the United States in the mid-'50s while Mama and five kids were left behind in the Philippines. I was only 10.

However, I turned out to be a peripatetic pedagogue whose legal

residency in Hawaii extends only to an address and a driver's license. I was going to quit the CNMI a few years back to be close to my parents but my Papa died before I could do so; discovery of my spondylosis also derailed the process. Another brother swaths geographic coverage of photo shoots far and wide, making our youngest brother the practical trustee.

Thus, youngest son took the patriarchal role of ensuring that attention due our mother is given without reservation and with minimal consideration to cost. He, however, also has a career, and time available to spend is only during off hours and weekends. Happily, he is unencumbered by wedded roles; he also is freer to extend financial assistance on my mother's welfare when needed.

So, youngest brother and sister have become the surrogate *padre y madre de familia*. Not rich, they and the rest of the siblings professionally deliver public service and assistance programs, and expend resources in many volunteer efforts. In the last days of our Papa's life when we placed him in the care of a nursing home, he rebelled fiercely by escaping out into the night like a juvenile skipping home when no one was looking.

Our youngest brother's work in the public correction system affords him less than a cursory familiarity with human motivation and manipulation; he is familiar with the phenomenon of family members being the worst abusers of their own kin, as well as elders' refined manipulation of relations in scheming for the attention they require. That prevailing "story" at times set our brother's mental equilibrium a-kilter relative to mom, seeing actuations of other children to be "abusive," and mother's call for attention patently coercive. It is not a pleasant state of being; the story determines behavior.

We remind those challenged with the care of family members, of the differently-abled and the elders, that intentional mindfulness and strategic compassion remains an option of the family, not an

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



automatic virtue of paid caregivers designated to serve that function. Members of extended families in our time are geographically stretched as members now call on relations only by phone or through the Internet. The nuclear family inadequately replaced extended relations, and add to that vestiges of patriarchy and the resurgence of matriarchy, calcified masculine bullheadedness and combative feminine insurgence, many husbands and wives wage the gender war in the American landscape.

It might be helpful to be reminded that masculinity and femininity has less to do with wearing pants or skirts; it has to do with supporting and nurturing members of any social unit, in this case, a family.

Those of us unable to provide 24/7 care for our elders, let us, at least, make sure that we humanize the nursing homes with our bombardment of compassion and care, however that is expressed. The fundamental issue is for elders to be accorded respect not as an object of condescension, tolerance, and paternalism especially as their physical, emotional and mental faculties begin to recede and wane, but as full members of the human race where they belong, not in the first instance for their sake, but for ours.

Being the *padre y madre de familia* is not a genetic assignment. It is a choice.

It's a draw. A deadlock. A freeze. An impasse. A stalemate. Agreed?

Americans don't agree on much these days, but most concur on this: The nation is suffering from a lack of fearless, principled leadership (on "my" side of the ideological divide), and from an epidemic of extremism (on the "other" side). We need more commanding, butt-kicking, arm-twisting change agents (on "my" side) as well as more responsible compromisers focused on the greater good (on the "other" side).

Anybody disagree? Didn't think so.

Now, here's the thing: Americans are basically right in this diagnosis of what's paralyzing our politics. What they don't fully grasp is that it's their own damn fault.

American governments are dysfunctional today for the simple reason that the country is too evenly divided. We are in a historically abnormal period of political stalemate, in which neither major party can get (or long keep) unquestioned control of all the levers of government.

American political history never really had an era of high-minded eagerness to "work together." And it never really had leaders whose force of personality mysteriously soothed the savagery of opponents.

What it did have were many periods when one party or the other won repeated crushing victories at the polls, after which both commanding leadership and cooperation tended to blossom.

Consider President Obama's troubles. Many on the left are exasperated with him, having hoped he would be another Franklin Roosevelt, or at least a Lyndon Johnson. For good or ill, FDR and LBJ often steamrolled conservative opponents, dramatically and lastingly expanding the role of the federal government in American life.

What did they have that Obama lacks? Eloquence? Convictions? Ruthlessness? No. They had overwhelming superiority in political support, that's what.

Democrats utterly dominated both houses of Congress throughout the Roosevelt and Johnson presidencies. During the New Deal era, FDR was backed by Democratic majorities as large as 333-89 in the House of Representatives and 75-17 in the Senate. In his first

two years, Obama had 256 allies in the House and (only for a short time) 60 in the Senate. Johnson's congressional majorities were smaller than FDR's, but he never had less than 64 senators, and he had 68 the year they enacted Medicare.

This year and next, of course, Obama must contend with a Republican-controlled House. Divided government, once rare, has become the norm in our 50-50 era.

Between 1900 and the end of Lyndon Johnson's tenure, one party or the other controlled the whole federal government—the White House and both houses of Congress—for 54 of 68 years, about 80 percent of the time. Since then, we've had one-party government for just 14 of 44 years, less than one-third of the time.

In short, Americans in the past made up their minds—at least for stretches of time. That's what usually produced heroic leaders and meek, mild, reasonable opponents.

In our era, the parties are given slim majorities that are soon snatched away. That's what produces cautious, rope-a-dope leaders and belligerent critics always trying for the knockout punch.

And this isn't just a phenomenon of national politics, as Wisconsin is busy showing. Nine legislative recall elections have been held by the Badger State, in the climax of a nine-month political donnybrook featuring mass protests, fugitive legislators and brawling Supreme Court justices.

Inspired by a bruising assault on state spending and public-employee unions from GOP Gov. Scott Walker and his Republican allies in the legislature, the big-buck backlash elections have produced—well, not much, beyond a bit more of a stalemate.

One would have to concede that Walker's leadership agenda has been tolerably bold. So, initially, was Obama's. But like Obama, Walker has not exactly inspired from his opponents the sweet spirit of cooperation and compromise.

Two GOP senators were ousted last week, but the Republicans will maintain narrow control. Number cruncher Nate Silver at the New York Times reports that, taken together, the six recall elections last week show the GOP vote in those districts dropping by just under 3 percentage points from Walker's solid win last November.

IRS in a few years for an answer.

The health-care measure raises business costs and makes planning for the future more difficult. It should be expected to slow hiring.

Federal Reserve officials report that the law has had exactly this effect. Dennis Lockhart, president of the Atlanta Fed, reports that "prominent among these (factors businesses explain are impeding hiring) is the lack of clarity about the cost implications of the recent health care legislation. We've frequently heard strong comments to the effect of 'my company won't hire a single ad-

By **D.J. TICE**

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

D.J. Tice is the Minneapolis Star Tribune's commentary editor. Readers may send him email at dtice@startribune.com.



If that change of heart lasts and translates statewide (big "ifs," as Silver notes), it could be important in future Wisconsin elections (including a possible recall of Walker). But it merely moves the state back to a dead-even, too-close-to-call split.

Looking on the bright side, the Wisconsin State Journal suggested in a editorial that the recall outcome could spur moderation, being "far from a backlash, yet not a ringing endorsement, either."

But couldn't one just as easily say that Wisconsin voters delivered both a backlash and a ringing endorsement—with no decision between the two?

"No decision," of course, is also where Minnesota is stuck. This summer's state government shutdown fueled a lot of indignation over our politicians' terminal case of gridlock. It just might have something to do with Minnesota voters producing a generation of divided control over state government, and with the fact that the last two major statewide elections (U.S. Senate, 2008; governor, 2010) were dead heats, decided only by recounts.

The structure of America's political system, with its tangle of checks and balances, was ingeniously designed to restrain even huge majorities from running roughshod over dissenters. So it is frankly hard to be confident that either bold leadership or compromise is likely so long as the American electorate remains so indecisive.

All this raises an excellent question: Why are we so closely divided in our time?

I'm working on that. For now I'm only certain (as I'm sure you are) that it must be the other side's fault.

HEALTH

From Page 10

In addition to this economic uncertainty comes administrative uncertainty. Will a business get a waiver or not? The law doesn't say—that is up to the bureaucrats to decide. Will an entrepreneur who owns multiple small businesses, each with fewer than 50 workers but collectively above the limit, have to pay the penalty? Ask the

ditional worker until we know what health insurance costs are going to be."






Surveys bear out these warnings. In a recent poll one-third of small business owners identified the healthcare bill as one of their top two obstacles to hiring.

The data suggest these business owners' complaints are not idle. Job growth slowed almost as soon as Congress passed the bill. If Congress wants to lift the brakes on hiring, then rolling back the Affordable Care Act would be a good place to start.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲84 ▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼72
Kosrae	Showers	▲91 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼77

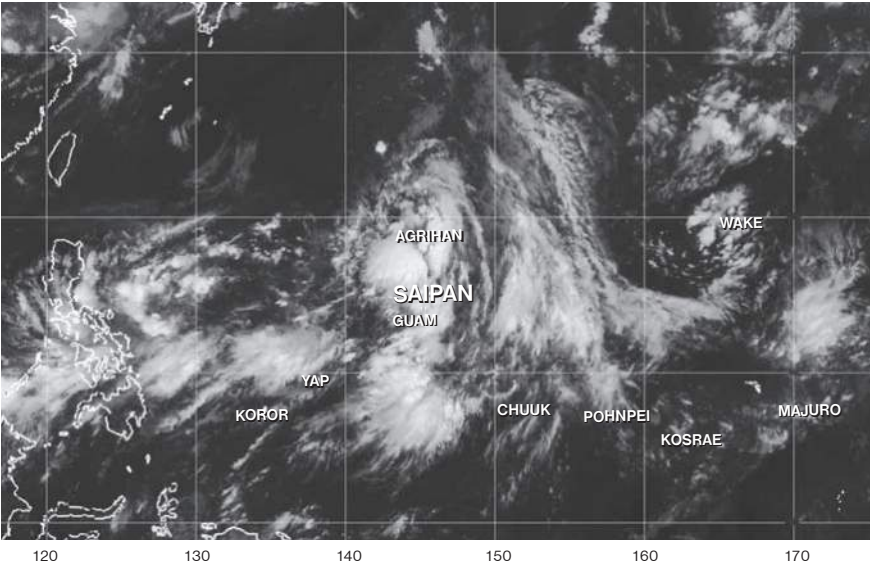
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼51
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86 ▼75
London	Rain	▲71 ▼59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲84 ▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲68 ▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼64
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼76
Paris	Showers	▲74 ▼59
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲75 ▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲93 ▼69
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼62
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼59
Seoul	Showers	▲80 ▼67
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼67

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:43 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	
8:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
4:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet	
8:3y0 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An active monsoon trough extends northeastward from east of the Philippines to a developing disturbance near 13N130E to 18N140E and then toward a small tropical depression near Iwo Jima near 25N143E east of 130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within converging southwest winds south and east of the monsoon trough axis from 9N to 13N between 130E and 140E just north of Koror and Yap in the region between Yap and Chuuk from 5N0 to 12N between 141E and 148E and over much of the Marianas from 12N to 23N between 142E and 147E east of this area. An extensive area of upper-level cloudiness is occurring with only a couple of small pockets of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 8N to 22N between 147E to 157E. The southern edge of this latter area stretches into northern Chuuk and Pohnpei states. A westward moving trade-wind trough is seen passing just north of the Marshalls near 170E and is helping to create an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 10N to 16N between 169E and 174E. This extends down in pockets to around Kwajalein and Majuro to the east of 178E. The ITCZ can be seen within 120 miles of 10N in the subtropics. An upper-level low is helping to create isolated areas of showers and thunderstorms west and north of Wake Island from 16N to 24N between 163E and 168E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:08 AM	1:27 PM
Wednesday	12:59 AM	2:20 PM
Thursday	1:54 AM	3:12 PM
Friday	2:51 AM	4:03 PM
Saturday	3:50 AM	4:52 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 11, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C09314 2:20am 2:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C09315 5:30am 6:00am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C09315 4:25am 5:00am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C09314 3:20am 3:55am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C09317 4:25am 5:15am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C09315 4:25am 6:00am 1, 5 via ROP C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 5K386 5:50pm 6:40pm 4 C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily 5K382 11:30pm 12:20am+1 1, 5	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C09314 2:20am 3:55am 1, 5 via ROP C09316 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 5K387 6:30am 7:20am 3, 4, 7 C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 5K389 8:00am 8:50am 5 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) 5K212 8:20am 10:55am 3, 4, 7	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN 5K213 11:55am 4:25pm 3, 4, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:45am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:05pm 12:45am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:05am 8:30am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:20am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:50am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/191 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:05am 9:55pm Daily via NRT C09313/183 7:55am 8:40pm 3, 6 via GUM C09603/183 3:05pm 8:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM C09603/193 3:05pm 10:10pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN DL172/288 7:45am 12:35am+1 Daily via NRT OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0190/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 3, 6 via GUM C0192/9596 9:55pm 7:25am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:25am 5, via GUM PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am 1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:20am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN 5K168 9:50am 1:00pm 1, 5 C09603/179 3:05pm 9:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:30pm 11:00pm 7 via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:25pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:25pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN 5K169 2:55pm 10:00pm 1, 5 C0180/9596 10:30pm 7:25am+1 5 via GUM C0180/9596 10:30pm 7:50am+1 1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Social Security disability on the verge of insolvency

WASHINGTON (AP)—Laid-off workers and aging baby boomers are flooding Social Security's disability program with benefit claims, pushing the financially strapped system toward the brink of insolvency.

Applications are up nearly 50 percent over a decade ago as people with disabilities lose their jobs and can't find new ones in an economy that has shed nearly 7 million jobs.

The stampede for benefits is adding to a growing backlog of applicants—many wait two years or more before their cases are resolved—and worsening the financial problems of a program that's been running in the red for years.

New congressional estimates say the trust fund that supports Social Security disability will

run out of money by 2017, leaving the program unable to pay full benefits, unless Congress acts. About two decades later, Social Security's much larger retirement fund is projected to run dry as well.

Much of the focus in Washington has been on fixing Social Security's retirement system. Proposals range from raising the retirement age to means-testing benefits for wealthy retirees. But the disability system is in much worse shape and its problems defy easy solutions.

The trustees who oversee Social Security are urging Congress to shore up the disability system by reallocating money from the retirement program, just as lawmakers did in 1994. That would provide only short-term relief at the expense of weakening the

retirement program.

Claims for disability benefits typically increase in a bad economy because many disabled people get laid off and can't find a new job. This year, about 3.3 million people are expected to apply for federal disability benefits. That's 700,000 more than in 2008 and 1 million more than a decade ago.

"It's primarily economic desperation," Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue said in an interview. "People on the margins who get bad news in terms of a layoff and have no other place to go and they take a shot at disability."

The disability program is also being hit by an aging population—disability rates rise as people get older—as well as a system that encourages

people to apply for more generous disability benefits rather than waiting until they qualify for retirement.

Retirees can get full Social Security benefits at age 66, a threshold gradually rising to 67. Early retirees can get reduced benefits at 62. However, if you qualify for disability, you can get full benefits, based on your work history, even before 62.

Also, people who qualify for Social Security disability automatically get Medicare after two years, even if they are younger than 65, the age when other retirees qualify for the government-run health insurance program.

Congress tried to rein in the disability program in the late 1970s by making it tougher to qualify. The number of people receiving benefits declined for a few years, even during a recession in the early 1980s. Congress, however, reversed course and loosened the criteria, and the rolls were growing again by 1984.

The disability program "got into trouble first because of liberalization of eligibility standards in the 1980s," said Charles Blahous, one of the public trustees who oversee Social Security. "Then it got another shove into bigger trouble during the recent recession."

Today, about 13.6 million people receive disability benefits through Social Security or Supplemental Security Income. Social Security is for people with substantial work histories, and monthly disability payments average \$927. Supplemental Security Income does not require a work history but it has strict limits on income and assets. Monthly SSI payments average \$500.

As policymakers work to improve the disability system, they are faced with two major issues: Legitimate applicants often have to wait years to get benefits while many others get payments they don't deserve.

United Continental to invest \$550M in fleet-wide onboard improvements

CHICAGO—United Continental Holdings (NYSE: UAL) today announced it will invest more than a half-billion dollars in its onboard product as it takes another important step in becoming the world's leading airline. These product improvements include:

- Adding flat-bed seating on 62 additional long-haul aircraft, bringing total aircraft with flat-bed seats to 185, more than any other U.S. carrier;
- Adding Economy Plus seating and Channel 9 air traffic control audio to more than 300 aircraft;
- Nearly doubling the overhead storage space on more than 150 aircraft;
- Installing advanced broad-

band Wi-Fi on more than 200 aircraft;

- Introducing streaming wireless video onboard its 747-400 aircraft; and
 - Completely retrofitting its p.s. fleet with flat-bed seats, Economy Plus, on-demand audio and video and Wi-Fi
- These and other planned product changes come in addition to the 25 new aircraft—including the Boeing 787 Dreamliner—that the airline will introduce to its fleet next year. United and Continental have each made significant product and service improvements over the past several years and since the airlines closed their merger Oct. 1, 2010.

"We are making very good progress building the world's

leading airline," said Jeff Smisek, president and chief executive officer of United Continental Holdings, Inc. "When we announced our merger, we committed to building an airline that our co-workers would want to work for, our customers would want to fly, and our investors would want to invest in. These product enhancements announced today, coupled with our unbeatable route network and loyalty program, will provide an unsurpassed travel experience for our customers. We are planning many other product enhancements, both on the ground and in the air, which we will announce in the future." (*United Continental*)



In this Nov. 15, 2010, file photo Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue responds to questions at a hearing in Akron, Ohio. AP

Oil prices should fall with Gadhafi overthrow

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices around the world should start falling if Libyan rebels succeed in toppling Moammar Gadhafi's regime, though the full effect won't be felt for months.

On Sunday night, rebel forces pushed into Tripoli without meeting much resistance, hours after they overran a major military base that defended the capital. The opposition's leaders said Gadhafi's son and one-time heir apparent, Seif al-Islam, has been arrested.

Independent analyst Andrew Lipow said oil markets will likely respond Monday by sending prices lower in "a sign of relief that conflict has come to the end."

But Lipow said it will take time for the market to erase the hefty price increase that resulted from the suspension of Libyan oil exports since the rebellion began in February.

Libya used to export about 1.5 million barrels of oil per day, almost all of which have been cut off. Although Libyan

oil amounted to less than 2 percent of world demand, its loss affected prices because of its high quality and suitability for European refineries.

Analysts estimate that the situation in Libya has increased oil prices by \$10 to \$20 a barrel.

The European refineries have struggled to make up for the production loss despite an increase from Saudi Arabia. As a result, European markets should see the first and most significant drops in oil prices, Lipow said.

He added that any developments in the ongoing European financial crisis could also move stock markets around the world this week and oil prices along with them.

Independent analyst Jim Ritterbusch said that even if rebels manage to push Gadhafi out soon, the near-term effects on oil prices will be limited.

"Psychologically anyway, it's going to force some additional selling," Ritterbusch said. "But selling may not be pronounced because there's still a lot of

question marks remaining" on how long it would take for production to resume.

Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research, said that once Gadhafi is pushed out, Libya's new government could take the path of the Iraqis after the fall of Saddam Hussein and spend years fighting over every detail. Or it could follow Kuwait's example and quickly decide to bring in an outside company to get production restarted right away.

He added that there's always a chance that the process could come to a halt if one of the rebel generals tries to seize power, or if different factions get caught up debating the country's new constitution and put off making decisions about oil production.

"They do have a good cadre of educated people, but they don't have a long record of competent self-government," Lynch said. "It would not be a bad bet to think there might be a chaotic period for a few months till they get organized."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Survey: More economists prefer cuts over taxes

NEW YORK (AP)—The majority of economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics believe that the federal deficit should be reduced only or primarily through spending cuts. The survey out Monday found that 56 percent of the NABE members surveyed felt that way, while 37 percent said they favor equal parts spending cuts and tax increases. The remaining 7 percent believe it should be done only or mostly through tax increases. As for how to reduce the deficit, nearly 40 percent said the best way would be to contain Medicare and Medicaid costs. Nearly a quarter recommended overhauling the tax system and simplifying tax rates and exemptions. About 15 percent said the government should enact tough spending caps and cut discretionary spending.

China's US assets 'safe,' Biden tells students

CHENGDU, China (AP)—Vice President Joe Biden wrapped up a visit to China on Sunday that offered him extensive face-time with the country's expected future leader, Xi Jinping, and delivered

a strong message of U.S. mutual interdependence with the world's second-largest economy. Biden also made the case for continued U.S. economic vitality despite current budget woes and sought to reassure China's leaders and ordinary citizens about the safety of their assets in the United States following the downgrading of America's credit rating. "You're safe," Biden told students in a question-and-answer session following a speech at Sichuan University in the southwestern city of Chengdu.

Asian stock markets lower amid US recession fears

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian stocks gave up early gains and fell Monday as fears that the U.S. is slipping back into recession caused investors to dump riskier assets. Brent crude fell to near \$106 a barrel in Asia as Libyan rebels entered Tripoli, boosting hopes the OPEC nation's oil exports could resume soon. The dollar was stronger against the yen and the euro. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 0.8 percent to 19,242.88 and South Korea's Kospi index dropped 1.2 percent to 1,722.61. Benchmarks in Taiwan, Singapore, mainland China and Indonesia were also lower.

Nation

GOP may OK tax increase that Obama hopes to block

WASHINGTON (AP)—News flash: Congressional Republicans want to raise your taxes. Impossible, right? GOP lawmakers are so virulently anti-tax, surely they will fight to prevent a payroll tax increase on virtually every wage-earner starting Jan. 1, right?

Apparently not.

Many of the same Republicans who fought hammer-and-tong to keep the George W. Bush-era income tax cuts from expiring on schedule are now saying a different “temporary” tax cut should end as planned. By their own definition, that amounts to a tax increase.

The tax break extension they oppose is sought by President Barack Obama. Unlike proposed changes in the income

tax, this policy helps the 46 percent of all Americans who owe no federal income taxes but who pay a “payroll tax” on practically every dime they earn.

There are other differences as well, and Republicans say their stand is consistent with their goal of long-term tax policies that will spur employment and lend greater certainty to the economy.

“It’s always a net positive to let taxpayers keep more of what they earn,” says Rep. Jeb Hensarling, “but not all tax relief is created equal for the purposes of helping to get the economy moving again.” The Texas lawmaker is on the House GOP leadership team.

The debate is likely to boil up in coming weeks as a special bipartisan committee seeks big deficit reductions and weighs

which tax cuts are sacrosanct.

At issue is a tax that the vast majority of workers pay, but many don’t recognize because they don’t read, or don’t understand their pay stubs. Workers normally pay 6.2 percent of their wages toward a tax designated for Social Security. Their employer pays an equal amount, for a total of 12.4 percent per worker.

As part of a bipartisan spending deal last December, Congress approved Obama’s request to reduce the workers’ share to 4.2 percent for one year; employers’ rate did not change. Obama wants Congress to extend the reduction for an additional year. If not, the rate will return to 6.2 percent on Jan. 1.

Obama cited the payroll tax



AP

In this Aug. 2, 2011 file photo, President Barack Obama speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

in his weekend radio and Internet address Saturday, when he urged Congress to work together on measures that help the economy and create jobs. “There are

things we can do right now that will mean more customers for businesses and more jobs across the country. We can cut payroll taxes again, so families have an extra \$1,000 to spend,” he said.

Social Security payroll taxes apply only to the first \$106,800 of a worker’s wages. Therefore, \$2,136 is the biggest benefit anyone can gain from the one-year reduction.

The great majority of Americans make less than \$106,800 a year. Millions of workers pay more in payroll taxes than in federal income taxes.

The 12-month tax reduction will cost the government about \$120 billion this year, and a similar amount next year if it’s renewed.

That worries Rep. David

Camp, R-Mich., chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, and a member of the House-Senate supercommittee tasked with finding new deficit cuts. Tax reductions, “no matter how well-intended,” will push the deficit higher, making the panel’s task that much harder, Camp’s office said.

But Republican lawmakers haven’t always worried about tax cuts increasing the deficit. They led the fight to extend the life of a much bigger tax break: the major 2001 income tax reduction enacted under Bush. It was scheduled to expire at the start of this year. Obama campaigned on a pledge to end the tax break only for the richest Americans, but solid GOP opposition forced him to back down.

South Dakota schools cut costs with 4-day week

IRENE, S.D. (AP)—When the nearly 300 students of the Irene-Wakonda School District returned to school this week, they found a lot of old friends, teachers and familiar routines awaiting them. But one thing was missing: Friday classes.

This district in the rolling farmland of southeastern South Dakota is among the latest to adopt a four-day school week as the best option for reducing costs and dealing with state budget cuts to education.

“It got down to monetary reasons more than anything else,” Superintendent Larry Johnke said. The \$50,000 savings will preserve a vocational education program that otherwise would have been scrapped.

The four-school week is an increasingly visible example of the impact of state budget problems on rural education. This fall, fully one-fourth of South Dakota’s districts will have moved to some form of the abbreviated schedule. Only Colorado and Wyoming have a larger proportion of schools using a shortened week. According to

one study, more than 120 school districts in 20 states, most in the west, now use four-day weeks.

The schools insist that reduc-

ing class time is better than the alternatives and can be done without sacrificing academic performance. Yet not all parents



AP

In this May 18, 2011 photo, Irene-Wakonda School District Superintendent Larry Johnke stands in the Irene-Wakonda High School school library in Irene, S.D.

Families maintain hope Iran will release hikers

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Relatives of two American men arrested more than two years ago in Iran said Sunday that the news they had received eight-year prison sentences for spying hit them hard, but they remain hopeful the men will eventually be released.

Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal were sentenced Saturday to three years for illegal entry into Iran and five years for spying for the United States. The two were arrested in July 2009 near the Iraq-Iran border along with a third American, Sarah Shourd, who was released in September on \$500,000 bail and returned to the U.S. All three deny the charges, saying they were only hiking near the ill-defined border.

Samantha Topping, spokes-

woman for Bauer and Fattal’s families, sent a statement Sunday, saying their relatives had received confirmation of their sentences.

“Of the 751 days of Shane and Josh’s imprisonment, yesterday and today have been the most difficult for our families,” it said. “Shane and Josh are innocent and have never posed any threat to the Islamic Republic of Iran, its government or its people.”

But the statement also said the families still hoped the two would be released, based on remarks from Iran’s Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi. He said earlier this month that he hoped “the trial of the two American defendants who were detained for the crime of illegally entering Iran will finally

lead to their freedom.”

The families had been hoping that meant the men would be set free during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, when pardons are traditionally handed down. Their Sunday statement appealed “to the authorities in Iran to show compassion and allow them to return home to our families without delay.”

“We also ask everyone around the world who trusts in the benevolence of the Iranian people and their leaders to join us in praying that Shane and Josh will now be released,” it said.

The gap between words by Salehi and the verdict indicates increasing rift between President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s administration and hardline judiciary, controlled by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

who has final say on all state matters.

The Americans’ Iranian lawyer, Masoud Shafiei, told The Associated Press on Sunday that his clients were innocent and he would appeal the verdict and sentences.

“I will use entire legal capacity to defend them,” he said.

Under Iranian law, a conviction on espionage can carry up to a 10-year prison sentence, while a sentence for illegal entry can run from six months to three years in jail. The terms are often significantly reduced upon appeal.

Shafiei said Bauer and Fattal were notified about the court ruling in prison on Saturday by Iranian authorities.

Iranian state TV first reported the verdict Saturday.

are convinced.

“The kids are going to suffer,” said Melissa Oien, who has four children in the school and serves as vice president of the parent-teacher organization. “Of course they will. They’re missing a whole day of school.”

The downsizing comes as schools in some larger cities are moving in the opposite direction. In Chicago, school officials hope to add school days so students will learn more and have better employment prospects.

Irene-Wakonda’s predicament, like those of many other rural districts in the Great Plains, is compounded by declines in population and enrollment. The two towns, which are eight miles apart, combined their school districts in 2007 to save money. Wakonda got the elementary school and Irene the middle and high schools. Farming is the largest share of their economies, though some people

commute to jobs in Yankton or Vermillion.

Johnke, the superintendent, said the district will add 30 minutes to each day and shorten the lunch break to provide more class time Monday through Thursday. In elementary school, recess and physical education classes will be shortened.

The changes won’t entirely make up for losing Friday, Johnke said, but the district will still exceed the state’s minimum standard for class time and will teach all the required material.

“We feel they’ll get the same instruction. It’ll have to be done a little bit differently,” he said.

South Dakota’s Republican-controlled Legislature slashed aid to schools this spring by 6.6 percent to help close a \$127 million budget gap. Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard said state revenue has not grown in three years while costs have risen for medical services for the poor.

ACROSS THE NATION

Kansas City air show resumes day after fatal crash

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The annual Kansas City Aviation Expo has resumed a day after a stunt pilot crashed to his death in front of thousands of spectators. Bryan Jensen was performing maneuvers in his small plane at 1:45 p.m. Saturday when he didn’t pull out of a dive in time and crashed. The show halted after the fiery crash, and spectators were ushered out of Wheeler Downtown Airport.

500 at vigil for beheaded disabled La. boy

THIBODAUX, La. (AP)—Some 500 people came to a vigil Sunday night for a 7-year-old disabled boy whose father is accused of beheading. Thibodaux police said. Peltier Park was filled with those honoring the memory of Jori Lirette, with an almost constant stream of arrivals through the 90-minute vigil, said police spokesman Detective Ricky Ross. Jori had cerebral palsy, heart problems, and limited speech. He was killed Aug. 14 and a passerby saw his head in the yard.

Police: Man denies killing wife, her 3 kids in Va.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (AP)—A Virginia man has denied any involvement in the slayings of his wife and her three children, whose bodies were found in their burned apartment, police said Sunday. John Moses Ragin, 36, professed his innocence during interviews with Newport News police detectives who traveled to South Carolina, where he is being held, department spokesman Harold O. Eley said. “Mr. Ragin denies any involvement whatsoever in their deaths,” Eley said.

Asia

Australia convoy of 100s demanding new elections

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Trucks blasting their horns as well as camper vans and SUVs festooned with anti-government banners converged on Australia's Parliament House on Monday in a protest calling for new elections.

Police estimated 350 vehicles—mostly trucks—in at least three slow-moving convoys motored through the center of the national capital and past the Parliament and Prime Minister Julia Gillard's nearby official residence.

The cacophony of horns blared across the front lawns of Parliament where hundreds of protesters gathered late morning to call for new elections and an end to the government's plan to tax major polluters for every ton of carbon gas they emit. Banners included "CO2 is good stuff" and "democracy is dead."

An organizer of the so-called Convoy of No-Confidence, Kate Stuart, said more trucks were en route to Canberra although they were unsure how many.

Some had traveled in a convoy for 3,500 miles (5,700 kilometers) from Port Hedland in the northwest to protest against an eclectic range of government policies.

Cattle rancher Rashida Khan and her partner Len Baker joined the Port Hedland convoy in the northern city of Darwin then drove their pickup truck 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometers) to spend two days in Canberra before driving home.

Khan, 23, said she is angry at the carbon tax as well as the government's recent decision to suspend live cattle exports to Indonesia due to concerns about



Trucks, camper vans and SUVs drive on a street in Canberra, Australia, Monday, Aug. 22, 2011.

AP

slaughterhouse cruelty.

"You can get away with a lot with the Australian people, they're very laid back," Khan told The Associated Press. "But after 12 months of this sort of government—that's all unstable and upside down—it's terrible," she added.

The protest organized by a truck drivers' group argues that Gillard's minority government is not legitimate because

it has relied since elections a year ago on the support of the minority Greens party and independent lawmakers to form a slim majority in the House of Representatives.

Trucks traveling in 11 convoys from around the country were to have converged on Canberra for a far larger rally.

Organizer and truck driver Mick Pattel said some of those convoys had been de-

layed and some trucks turned back as part of a deliberate strategy to limit disruption to Canberra traffic and because of the high fuel costs in reaching the city.

"There was massive concern about gridlock and traffic chaos and I think we've done everything we can to avoid that," Pattel told demonstrators.

Gillard's center-left Labor Party has suffered in opinion polls

since she was re-elected and then broke a promise that she would not introduce a carbon tax.

The tax is scheduled to be introduced from July 1, 2012—a year before Australia's next general elections are due.

While the major opposition parties oppose the tax, Gillard has sufficient support to pass the legislation through Parliament with the endorsement of Greens and independent lawmakers.

Support for Japanese leader falls to new low

TOKYO (AP)—A new poll shows that Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan's public approval rating has fallen to the lowest level since he took office last year.

The survey by Kyodo News agency released Sunday found that 15.8 percent of respondents approve of the embattled leader's Cabinet, down from about 17 percent a month earlier.

Kan faces increasing demands to step down amid

criticism of his handling of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami and subsequent accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. Critics accuse him of a lack of leadership, while survivors complain of slow relief and recovery efforts.

Kan has said he will quit after two key bills are approved in parliament, which is likely to happen this month. That would set the stage for a leadership election within Kan's ruling party and

a new prime minister—Japan's sixth in four years.

With his days numbered, Kan recently scrapped plans to visit President Barack Obama in Washington next month.

Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda and trade and industry minister Banri Kaieda are among the reported front-runners to succeed Kan.

But it was former Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara who emerged as the favorite in Ky-

do's nationwide telephone poll, with the support of 28 percent of respondents. Maehara, who resigned in March over an illegal political donation, has not declared his candidacy.

Almost two-thirds of the 1,016 respondents said the most important goal for the new government is the recovery of disaster-ravaged northeastern Japan. A third of those surveyed said they want to see improvements in

the economy and jobs.

Although voters have soured on Kan, they overwhelmingly approve of his new policy of gradually phasing out nuclear power. More than 75 percent of respondents said they want the incoming administration to continue that policy.

Kyodo said it conducted the survey of eligible voters on Saturday and Sunday. It did not release a margin of error, but a poll of that size would typically have a margin of error of about 5 percentage points.

3 dead, 70 others rescued in Philippine ferry fire

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An inter-island ferry with at least 75 people caught fire then sank amid stormy weather in the central Philippines on Sunday, leaving 3 people dead, one missing while the rest were rescued, officials said.

The steel-hulled M/V *Island Fastcraft 1* was cruising toward Cebu province when it caught fire during a downpour, prompting several passengers to jump into the churning wa-

ters. Three of them drowned.

Henry Dungod said he, his wife and two young daughters were watching television with other passengers in a cabin when smoke suddenly wafted from below the ferry, sparking a panic. He and his wife grabbed life jackets and then jumped to the sea, each holding one daughter.

"It's scary, especially when something like this happens and you're with your family," Dun-

god told The Associated Press by telephone, adding he and his loved ones were plucked from the waters by a passing ship after nearly an hour.

Most of the passengers were rescued by a passing ship, coast guard officer Fidel Hibaya said.

Coast guard chief Admiral Ramon Liwag said one passenger was reported missing.

It was not immediately clear what sparked the blaze, but there was a report of an electri-

cal problem in the engine room before the fire. An investigation was under way, Liwag said.

The captain apparently ordered passengers and crew to abandon the ship when the fire began to spread, said Hibaya, commander of the coast guard detachment in Tubigon town in Bohol Province where the ferry originated.

The dead included the chief mate and two passengers, the coast guard said.

Liwag said his personnel alerted ships in the area to help in the rescue, preventing a larger number of casualties.

Sea accidents are common in the Philippine archipelago because of frequent storms, badly maintained boats and weak enforcement of safety regulations.

In December 1987, the ferry *Dona Paz* sank after colliding with a fuel tanker in the Philippines, killing more than 4,341 people in the world's worst peacetime maritime disaster.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tainted vinegar suspected in 11 deaths in China

BEIJING (AP)—Vinegar tainted with antifreeze is suspected of killing 11 people and sickening 120 after a communal Ramadan meal in China's far western region of Xinjiang. Investigators suspect the victims consumed vinegar that was put in two plastic barrels that had previously been used to store toxic antifreeze, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Monday. It said the mass food poisoning occurred Saturday night in a village close to Hotan city in Xinjiang, a border region that abuts Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia. The victims were ethnic Muslims who were sharing an evening meal after the daily fast observed during the holy month of Ramadan.

Afghan election officials to expel 9 legislators

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan election officials said Sunday that nine parliamentarians should be removed from their posts because of election fraud allegations—an attempt to put an end to a nearly yearlong state of limbo in the legislature. The allegations surfaced immediately following the messy September 2010 vote and peaked in June when a special court appointed by President Hamid Karzai called for the removal of 62 sitting lawmakers. Lawmakers and many of Afghanistan's international allies said the special court violated Afghan law, which says that an official fraud-monitoring body is the final arbiter of such complaints. That group had already discarded 1.3 million ballots—nearly a quarter of the total—for fraud, and disqualified 19 winning candidates for cheating.

Militants abduct 2 traders in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police say militants have kidnapped two traders in the southern Philippines where they are already holding two Americans and at least four other people for ransom. Police commander Felicisimo Khu said the victims were snatched at gunpoint as they were returning homes on a motorcycle Sunday after selling clothes in a marine camp on Jolo Island. The latest abduction near Patikul town is in the same area where the militants killed seven marines in a July 28 clash that prompted President Benigno Aquino III to order a new crackdown on the notorious terrorist group.

World

Libya rebels in Tripoli, Gadhafi defenses collapse

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Euphoric Libyan rebels raced into the capital Tripoli on Sunday and moved close to center with little resistance as Moammar Gadhafi's defenses collapsed and his regime appeared to be crumbling fast.

Associated Press reporters with the rebels said they moved easily from the western outskirts into the regime stronghold in a dramatic turning of the tides in the 6-month-old Libyan civil war. A rebel leader said the unit in charge of protecting Gadhafi and Tripoli had surrendered and joined the revolt, allowing the opposition force to move in freely.

"They will enter Green Square tonight, God willing," said Mohammed al-Zawi, a 30-year-old rebel who entered Tripoli. Green Square has been the site of night rallies by Gadhafi supporters throughout the uprising.

■■■
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday condemned NATO's bombings in Libya, saying the aim is to seize control of the country's oil wealth.

Chavez has been a staunch defender of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. He did not say whether he had been in contact with the Libyan leader in recent days and did not refer directly to the rebels who entered the capital of Tripoli on Sunday.

"Let's pray to God for the Libyan people," Chavez said during a televised speech.

Chavez condemned the latest NATO airstrikes in the country, as well as the roles of the United States and some European nations.

■■■
Earlier in the day, the rebels overran a major military base defending the capital, carted away truckloads of weapons and raced to Tripoli with virtually no resistance.

Gadhafi's whereabouts were unknown. But he delivered a series of angry and defiant audio messages broadcast on state television. He was not shown in the messages. In the latest one, he acknowledged that the opposition forces were moving into Tripoli and warned the city would be turned into another Baghdad.

"How come you allow Tripoli the capital, to be under occupation once again?" he said. "The traitors are paving the way for the occupation forces to be deployed in Tripoli."

He called on his supporters to march in the streets of the capital and "purify it" from "the rats."

Opposition leaders at one point claimed Gadhafi's son and one-time heir apparent, Seif



People celebrate the capture in Tripoli of Moammar Gadhafi's son and one-time heir apparent, Seif al-Islam, at the rebel-held town of Benghazi, Libya, early Monday, Aug. 22, 2011.

al-Islam, had been arrested, but they later backtracked and said this was not yet confirmed.

The rebels' surprising and speedy leap forward, after six months of largely deadlocked civil war, was packed into just a few dramatic hours. By nightfall, they had advanced more than 20 miles to Tripoli.

Thousands of jubilant civilians rushed out of their homes to cheer the long convoys of pickup trucks packed with rebel fighters shooting in the air. Some of the fighters were hoarse, shouting: "We are coming for you, frizz-head," a mocking nickname for Gadhafi. In villages along the way that fell to the rebels one after another, mosque loudspeakers blared "Allahu Akbar," or "God is great."

"We are going to sacrifice our lives for freedom," said Nabil al-Ghowail, a 30-year-old dentist holding a rifle in the streets of Jazour, a suburb just six miles west of Tripoli. Heavy gunfire erupted nearby.

As town after town fell and Gadhafi forces disappeared, the mood turned euphoric. Some shouted: "We are getting to Tripoli tonight." Others were shooting in the air, honking horns and yelling "Allahu Akbar."

Once they reached Tripoli, the rebels took control of one neighborhood, Ghot Shaal, on the western edge of the city. They set up checkpoints as a convoy of more than 10 trucks rolled in.

The rebels moved on to the

neighborhood of Girgash, about a mile and a half from Green Square. They said they came under fire from a sniper on a rooftop in the neighborhood.

Sidiq al-Kibir, the rebel leadership council's representative for the capital Tripoli, confirmed the arrest of Seif al-Islam to the AP but did not give any further details.

Inside Tripoli, widespread clashes erupted for a second day between rebel "sleepers" and Gadhafi loyalists. Rebels fighter who spoke to relatives in Tripoli by phone said hundreds rushed into the streets in anti-regime protests in several neighborhoods.

The day's first breakthrough came when hundreds of rebels fought their way into a major symbol of the Gadhafi regime—the base of the elite 32nd Brigade commanded by Gadhafi's son, Khamis. Fighters said they met with little resistance. They were 16 miles from the big prize, Tripoli.

Hundreds of rebels cheered wildly and danced as they took over the compound filled with eucalyptus trees, raising their tricolor from the front gate and tearing down a large billboard of Gadhafi.

Inside, they cracked open wooden crates labeled "Libyan Armed Forces" and loaded their trucks with huge quantities of munitions. One of the rebels carried off a tube of grenades, while another carted off two mortars.

"This is the wealth of the Libyan people that he was using against us," said Ahmed al-Ajdal, 27, pointing to his haul. "Now we will use it against him and any other dictator who goes against the Libyan people."

One group started up a tank, drove it out of the gate, crushing the median of the main highway and driving off toward Tripoli. Rebels celebrated the capture with deafening amounts of celebratory gunfire, filling the air with smoke.

Across the street, rebels raided a huge warehouse, making off with hundreds of crates of rockets, artillery shells and large-caliber ammunition. The warehouse had once been used to store packaged foods, and in the back, cans of beans were still stacked toward the ceiling.

They freed several hundred prisoners from a regime lockup. The fighters and the prisoners—many looking weak and dazed and showing scars and bruises

from beatings—embraced and wept with joy.

The prisoners had been held in the walled compound and when the rebels rushed in, they freed more than 300 of them.

"We were sitting in our cells when all of a sudden we heard lots of gunfire and people yelling 'Allahu Akbar.' We didn't know what was happening, and then we saw rebels running in and saying 'We're on your side.' And they let us out," said 23-year-old Majid al-Hodeiri from Zawiya. He said he was captured four months ago by Gadhafi's forces and taken to base. He said he was beaten and tortured while under detention.

Many of the prisoners looked disoriented as they stopped at a gathering place for fighters several miles away from the base. Some had signs of severe beatings. Others were dressed in tattered T-shirts or barefoot. Rebels fighters and prisoners embraced.

From the military base, the convoy sped toward the capital.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel-Gaza violence threatens protest movement

JERUSALEM (AP)—Security has traditionally trumped all other concerns in Israel. Now some social activists fear a sudden spike of violence with the Palestinians could overwhelm a spontaneous and surprisingly strong summer-long revolt against the country's high cost of living. A deadly ambush that killed eight Israelis, and subsequent Israeli airstrikes and rocket barrages from Gaza over the weekend, have abruptly shifted the country's attention away from the economic protests that were coalescing into a serious threat to the government. Now the security situation is the center of attention again.

Lawyer: Strauss-Kahn accuser 'depressed'

PARIS (AP)—The hotel maid who accused former International Monetary Fund director Dominique Strauss-Kahn of sexual assault feels "abandoned" by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, her attorney said Sunday. In an interview with France's RTL radio that comes a day after he told The New York Times he feared Vance would dismiss the charges against Strauss-Kahn, lawyer Kenneth Thompson said his client, Nassifatou Diallo "is hurt, she is depressed." Ms. Diallo feels abandoned by the Manhattan district attorney, Thompson said, adding that questions about Diallo's credibility as a witness have made her feel "that she's being investigated more than Strauss-Kahn."

Obama: Libya slipping from grasp of tyrant

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass. (AP)—Following a day of dramatic developments in Libya, President Barack Obama said Sunday night that the situation there has reached a "tipping point" and that control of the capital was "slipping from the grasp of a tyrant." He called on Moammar Gadhafi to accept reality and relinquish power.

"The surest way for the bloodshed to end is simple: Moammar Gadhafi and his regime need to recognize that their rule has come to an end," Obama said in a statement issued while on vacation in Martha's Vineyard, Mass. "Gadhafi needs to acknowledge the reality that he no longer controls Libya. He needs to relinquish power once and for all."

Obama issued the statement after conducting a conference call with members of his national security team, who had provided him with updates throughout the day.

He had told reporters earlier Sunday that he would not make a statement "until we have full confirmation of what has happened."

Libyan rebels who raced into Tripoli on Sunday met little resistance as Gadhafi's defenders melted away and his 42-year authoritarian rule quickly crumbled. Euphoric fighters celebrated with resi-

dents of the capital in Green Square, the symbolic heart of the fading regime. Gadhafi's whereabouts were unknown, though state TV broadcast his bitter pleas for Libyans to defend his regime.

Opposition fighters captured his son and one-time heir apparent, Seif al-Islam, who along with his father faces charges of crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands. Another son was in contact with rebels about surrendering, the opposition said.

"Tonight, the momentum against the Gadhafi regime has reached a tipping point. Tripoli is slipping from the grasp of a tyrant," Obama said in the statement. "The Gadhafi regime is showing signs of collapsing. The people of Libya are showing that the universal pursuit of dignity and freedom is far stronger than the iron fist of a dictator."

The United States has joined other countries in recognizing the rebel forces, the Transitional National Council, as the legitimate government in Libya.

Obama called on the rebels "at this pivotal and historic time" to demonstrate the leadership needed to steer the country through a transition by respecting the rights of the Libyan people, avoiding civilian casualties, protecting state

institutions and pursuing a transition to democracy that is "just and inclusive" for all of the country's people.

"A season of conflict must lead to one of peace," the president said.

Obama said the U.S. would remain in close contact with the TNC and work with its allies and partners around the world to protect the Libyan people and support a peaceful shift to democracy.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta were also kept updated throughout the day, officials said.

For the past two days, senior U.S. diplomats have had intensive discussions with the Libyan opposition, and with European and NATO allies, about the evolving situation. Ivo Daalder, the U.S. ambassador to NATO, and Philip Gordon, the top American diplomat for Europe, have been consulting with their counterparts.

Assistant Secretary of State Jeffrey Feltman, the top American diplomat for the Mideast, returned to Cairo on Sunday after two days in Benghazi, the de facto rebel capital. On Saturday, while in Benghazi, Feltman warned that "the best-case scenario is for Gadhafi to step down now ... that's the best protection for civilians."

Focus

NEW YORK (AP)—Baby boomers heading into what used to be called retirement age are providing a 70 million-member strong market for legions of companies, entrepreneurs and cosmetic surgeons eager to capitalize on their “forever young” mindset, whether it’s through wrinkle creams, face-lifts or workout regimens.

It adds up to potential bonanza. The market research firm Global Industry Analysts projects that a boomer-fueled consumer base, “seeking to keep the dreaded signs of aging at bay,” will push the U.S. market for anti-aging products from about \$80 billion now to more than \$114 billion by 2015.

The boomers, who grew up in a culture glamorizing youth, face an array of choices as to whether and how to be a part of that market.

Anti-aging enthusiasts contend that life spans can be prolonged through interventions such as hormone replacement therapy and dietary supplements. Critics, including much of the medical establishment, say many anti-aging interventions are ineffective or harmful.

From mainstream organizations such as the National Institute on Aging, the general advice is to be a skeptical consumer on guard for possible scams involving purported anti-aging products.

“Our culture places great value on staying young, but aging is normal,” the institute says. “Despite claims about pills or treatments that lead to endless youth, no treatments have been proven to slow or reverse the aging process.”

Its advice for aging well is basic: Eat a healthy diet, exercise regularly, don’t smoke.

“If someone is promising you today that you can slow, stop or reverse aging, they’re likely trying hard to separate you from your money,” said S. Jay Olshansky, a professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago’s School of Public Health who has written extensively about aging.

“It’s always the same message: ‘Aging is your fault and we’ve got the cure,’” Olshansky said. “Invest in yourself, in the simple things we know work. Get a good pair of running or walking shoes and a health club membership, and eat more fruits and vegetables.”

But such advice hasn’t curtailed the demand for anti-aging products, including many with hefty price tags that aren’t covered by health insurance. These include cosmetic surgery procedures at \$10,000 or more, human growth hormone treatment at \$15,000 per year and a skin-care product called Peau Magnifique that costs \$1,500 for a 28-day supply.

Another challenge for consumers is that many dietary supplements and cosmetics, unlike prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines, aren’t required to undergo government testing or review before they are marketed. The Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission do crack down at times on egregiously false anti-aging claims, but generally there’s little protection for people who don’t get hoped-for results.

Mary Engle, director of the FTC’s division of advertising practices, said her agency focuses on the cases that could cause serious harm, such as bogus cancer treatments that might prompt an ill person to forgo proper care.

She said the agency lacks the resources to crack down comprehensively on ads with exaggerated claims that exploit customers’ hopes for better looks or more energy.

“Often it doesn’t rise to the level of

“A TRUE EXPERT.” —Bill Phillips, the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Body-for-LIFE* and founder of Transformation.com

THEN
Age 57

The LIFE PLAN

How Any Man Can Achieve Lasting Health, Great Sex, and a Stronger, Leaner Body

JEFFRY S. LIFE, M.D., Ph.D.

NOW
Age 72

This image made available by Atria Books shows the cover of Dr. Jeffry Life’s book *The Life Plan*. Life, now 72, used testosterone and human growth hormone in his own bodybuilding regimen and recommends hormonal therapy for some of the patients patronizing his age-management practice in Las Vegas.

Boomers will be spending billions to counter aging

By **DAVID CRARY**
AP NATIONAL WRITER

fraud,” she said. “There are so many problematic ads out there and we really have to pick and choose what we focus on.”

In contrast to the caution of mainstream organizations, there are many vocal promoters of anti-aging products and procedures, including the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine. It hosts annual conferences in the U.S. and abroad, and claims 22,000 members, mostly physicians.

In its mission statement, the academy says the disabilities associated with normal aging “are caused by physiological dysfunction which in many cases are amenable to medical treatment, such that the human life span can be increased.”

One of the academy’s co-founders is Robert Goldman, a doctor of osteopathic medicine. He contends that much of the resistance to the anti-aging movement comes from sectors of the health and pharmaceutical industries that feel threatened financially—for example by the surging use of over-the-counter nutritional supplements.

“It all has to do with who’s controlling the dollars,” he said.

Though many anti-aging interventions are expensive, Goldman said people on tight budgets still can take useful steps such as drinking purified water, taking vitamins and using sun screen.

“People should be healthy and strong well into 100 to 120 years of age,” Goldman says in a biographical video.

“That’s what’s really exciting—to live in a time period when the impossible is truly possible.”

Olshansky, who over the years has been among Goldman’s harshest critics, believes there will be scientific breakthroughs eventually, perhaps based on studies of the genes of long-lived people, that will help slow the rate of aging.

In the meantime, Olshansky says, “I understand the need for personal freedom, the freedom to make bad decisions.”

A look at some of the major sectors in the anti-aging industry:

HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY

Numerous companies and clinics promote

hormone replacement drugs, including testosterone for men and custom-mixed “bioidentical” hormones for women, as a way to slow the aging process.

Many consumers have seen ads featuring muscle-bound Dr. Jeffry Life, now 72. He used testosterone and human growth hormone in his own bodybuilding regimen and recommends hormonal therapy for some of the patients patronizing his age-management practice in Las Vegas.

The FDA has approved hormone replacement drugs for some specific purposes related to diseases and deficiencies, but not to combat aging.

“Finding a ‘fountain of youth’ is a captivating story,” says the National Institute on Aging. “The truth is that, to date, no research has shown that hormone replacement drugs add years to life or prevent age-related frailty.”

Dr. Evan Hadley, director of the institute’s Division of Geriatrics, says hormone replacement drugs can have harmful side effects. He said there is a need for more research, such as an institute study of testosterone therapy, to identify the potential risks and benefits.

“There is indeed potential that people can be healthier in old age,” Hadley said. “But it still requires evidence about what’s going to help and what’s not.”

Hormone drugs can be expensive. HGH shots can cost more than \$15,000 a year, according to the institute. A hormone-based dietary supplement known as DHEA (dehydroepiandrosterone), a precursor of estrogen and testosterone, is marketed online for \$12.95 per capsule by Utah-based NutraScriptives.

Some proponents say over-the-counter DHEA supplements can improve energy and strength, boost immunity and decrease fat. The institute says there’s no conclusive scientific evidence of any such benefits.

Life says he’s a staunch advocate of exercise and healthy eating, but insists that hormone replacement therapy, under a doctor’s supervision, is a crucial addition for some men, and that includes him.

“There’s no way I could look and feel the way I do if all I had done the last 13 years was exercise and eat right,” he said. “Even if you do everything right, if you have a deficiency in testosterone, you will lose the fight.”

Life acknowledged that the cost of testosterone replacement, probably more than \$5,000 a year and not covered by insurance, could be daunting for some. But he contends the investment pays off in more vitality.

“It’s hard to put on price on good health,” he says.

COSMETIC SURGERY

According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, there were 13.1 million cosmetic plastic surgery procedures performed in the U.S. in 2010, a 77 percent increase over a decade.

One notable trend is increased preference for less invasive procedures that enable patients to get back to work and social settings without a long leave of absence.

The most popular of these is treatment with the wrinkle-smoothing drugs Botox or Dysport. They account for 5.4 million procedures, averaging about \$400 per treatment. Other popular non-invasive procedures include soft-tissue facial fillers, chemical peels and microdermabrasion.

More invasive procedures come at a higher price. Face-lifts can run from

See **BOOMERS** on next page

Overdrive

How to know if your speedometer is accurate

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: For as long as I can remember, I knew that all cars' speedometers are 10 percent incorrect from the factory. It is my understanding that the speedometer always reads higher than the car is really going. Is this still correct?—B.C., Delray Beach, Fla.

ANSWER: Speedometers have always been a little "optimistic," because manufacturers don't want customers busted for driving at a higher speed than the speedometer shows, but 10 percent is a lot more optimistic than I usually see—1 or 2 percent is more like it. But with digital systems today, some speedometers I've seen are dead-on accurate. If you change to larger or smaller tires and wheels from factory sizes, the speedometer may be inaccurate. Speedometer shops can calibrate your speedometer, much as they are calibrated on police cars. But there are two easy ways you can check:

Many GPS navigation systems can compute your speed based on satellite data; plus, if you drive on a highway

or expressway with mileage markers, it should take you exactly 60 seconds to get from one to the next at 60 mph. Average your computation over several mileage markers, as some are moved forward or back a bit so they don't have to be placed at bridges or exits.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: No dealership has been able to fix the problem with my 1996 Toyota Tacoma. For a year now, once the vehicle has been driven for at least a half-hour in warm weather and it is turned off and sits for a few minutes, it will not restart unless you wait for at least 40 minutes for the engine to cool. It seems like it wants to start but the vehicle is "thirsty" for fuel.

Once restarted after the 40-plus minutes of waiting, it runs just fine. This problem doesn't happen in the winter, only on hot summer days, and every once in a while it idles roughly, but not often. It has been extremely frustrating to have to always wait awhile after driving it somewhere before I can drive it again.

A: You've accurately described "vapor lock," more formally called "fuel percolation." This occurs when engine

heat trapped under the hood boils the ready fuel supply in the fuel rails on top of the engine. The bubbles in the boiling fuel prevent proper fuel pressure necessary to deliver fuel from the injectors. Until the fuel cools, stops boiling and the air bleeds out of the system, the engine won't start.

Try opening the hood and idling the engine for a minute or so before shutting it off. Or when the engine won't start, try spraying water on the fuel rails, then try again. If either of these helps, it's vapor lock. The only cure is lowering underhood heat, servicing the cooling system and trying different brands of gasoline.

On the rare chance the issue is an ignition problem, check for spark while cranking the engine when it will not start. If there's no spark, it's not vapor lock. In this case, the electronic control unit or igniter might be overheating.

I'm betting on vapor lock.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 2001 Ford Ranger with an automatic transmission and 4.0-liter V6 engine. When the transmission is in park and I rev the engine, it starts to cut out and miss at about 3,000

rpm. Yet when in gear and moving, the engine can run well over 3,000 rpm with no sign of missing. Is this normal or is there a problem?

A: Normal. Modern computer-controlled engines often are programmed to limit engine speed to about 4,000 rpm in park or neutral by shutting down fuel injectors progressively so that even at wide-open throttle the engine cannot over-rev.

This also provides a quick escape from any "stuck throttle" or "unintended/sudden acceleration" situation—just shift into neutral to disengage the drivetrain and control the vehicle. This keeps the power steering and power brakes functioning, and the engine will not be damaged by overrevving.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I am a 70-year-old widow with a 2005 Lincoln LS with only 40,000 miles on it. Recently my car has been running rough and my mechanic, whom I trust, replaced the plugs and one "coil" that I understand replaces the old distributor cap. Within a month the problem came back and a second coil was changed. Since I am the designated driver for my friends, I

worry about getting stuck on the side of the road with a car full of seniors. Should I just have the four remaining coils replaced to be on the safe side?

A: My Alldata automotive database pulled up a pair of Ford service bulletins listed as recalls that cover replacement of ignition coils on certain 2003-05 Ford Thunderbirds and Lincoln LS models equipped with the 3.9-liter V6 engine that experience misfires related to coil failures. Ford has extended the warranty, for this specific problem, out to 10 years or 100,000 miles from the first date of service. The bulletin/recall numbers are 07M07S1 and 07N09S1, dated April 2008. Check with your local Ford-Lincoln dealer to determine whether your vehicle is covered by this recall.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive trouble-shooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Retrofitting car with back-up camera

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have been looking at electronic back-up systems because of the poor rear visibility on my 2011 Honda CRV. Some claim to be wireless but require extensive wiring. One of the Peak systems has a video camera and would be easy to install, but I am concerned about damaging the camera when I slam the rear hatch. Customer reviews also indicate these systems are not very reliable. Do you have an opinion on these?—Paul Biekert

ANSWER: Retrofit back-up cameras are a good idea for vehicles with

restricted rear visibility and have become surprisingly affordable. I counted 4,558 entries on eBay for camera systems with a bewildering variety of choices of wired and wireless systems and stand-alone cameras for use with your choice of monitor. A wired system using a video cable would be additional work to install but would address your concern of camera damage. Replacement cameras are \$20 and up. A wired system would also lessen the chance of interference, which seems to be a small to moderate problem with the wireless models.

This is certainly one of those cases where you get what you pay for. Back-

up camera systems can range from about \$50 to well over \$1000. The Peak models you've seen appear to do a good job for the price—\$75-150—and have been widely reviewed. I read every comment I could find, and the largest concern is water damage to the camera, which appears to be more prevalent on earlier versions of the system. It also sounds like the company does a good job of taking care of customer concerns.

Any system will require some wiring, such as connecting the camera to the back-up light circuit and possibly running the video cable beneath the carpet to the instrument panel. My greatest

concern is how the monitor would be placed on the instrument panel and how its cords might be kept tidy. Sun visor monitor mounting would be slick, but more difficult to run the wires. I believe the solid state design of the cameras used should withstand the jarring that would occur when you close the trunk.

Now you've got me going on this. Adding a camera to a truck would make hitching up the trailer much easier and lessen the chance of punching a hole in someone's grille with the hitch when parallel-parking.

NEW QUIZ: Thanks to all the readers who responded with input about the format of this column. I also received many suggestions for topics, offers of help with research, and a few requests for a new reader quiz. Here's a couple

of warm-up questions:

1. A shake is felt in the steering wheel at 52 mph. The cause is:

- (a) warped brake rotors
- (b) improper wheel alignment
- (c) incorrect wheel balance
- (d) a worn CV joint

2. Larger replacement tires for a truck or SUV will make your speedometer and odometer read:

- (a) faster
- (b) slower
- (c) the same

(ANSWERS: C, B)

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

BOOMERS

From Page 17

\$6,000 to \$15,000; the plastic surgeons' academy reported performing 112,000 of them in 2010.

Dr. Peter Schmid, who runs a cosmetic surgery practice in Longmont, Colo., says his field is flourishing because of evolving attitudes among appearance-conscious boomers. A recent Associated Press-LifeGoesStrong.com poll found that 1 in 5 boomers either have had or would consider cosmetic surgery.

"Cosmetic surgery has become table talk at home. There's a lot of satisfaction and acceptance from people who've had it, friend to friend, word of mouth," Schmid said.

While the noninvasive procedures cost less than a face-lift, the effects won't last as long and repeat treatments might be needed several times a year, Schmid said. He advised patients to calculate carefully which type of procedure makes the most sense for them financially.

Schmid, who is on the board of the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery, cautioned against any rush to try new procedures that get a burst of publicity.

"There's a certain vulnerability because everybody's looking for that quick fix, that fountain of youth," he said. "Many people will shop emotionally instead of objectively, before something has been tried and tested."

Some critics of the anti-aging industry are supportive of cosmetic surgery, provided the patient can comfortably afford it.

Professor Robert Binstock, an expert on aging at Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine, told of a recently widowed friend whose spirits lifted after getting the bags under her eyes removed. "If you feel better looking in the mirror in the morning, fine," he said. "I have no objection to people being narcissistic."

SKIN CARE

One of the industry's booming sectors is anti-aging skin care, featuring wrinkle creams and facial serums. By some estimates, the U.S. market for cosmeceutical products—cosmetics with medicine-based ingredients—is approaching \$20 billion a year.

The FDA, which oversees cosmetic safety and labeling, doesn't require manufacturers to prove the effectiveness of cosmetic products before they go on sale, and many ads make claims which critics say are exaggerated or



In this Aug. 9, 2011 photo, Dr. Robert Goldman, one of the co-founders of the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine, poses with his trophies from 20 Guinness World Records for strength and endurance in his trophy room in Chicago.

unverifiable. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends consulting a dermatologist on what skin care products have been proved safe and effective in human studies.

Consumer Reports has ventured into the realm of anti-aging cosmetics several times recently, using high-tech optical devices and other scientific methods to assess the products.

Last year, the magazine tested nine face serums, available at drug stores for

prices ranging from \$20 to \$65 and all claiming to reduce wrinkles.

"After six weeks of use, the effectiveness of even the best products was limited and varied from subject to subject," according to the review. "When we did see wrinkle reductions, they were at best slight, and they fell short of the miracles that manufacturers seemed to imply on product labels."

Earlier, the magazine tested wrinkle creams.

"Even the best performers reduced the average depth of wrinkles by less than 10 percent, a magnitude of change that was, alas, barely visible to the naked eye," it said.

Its top-rated product, Olay Regenerist, cost about \$19 at the time of the testing. La Prairie Cellular, the most expensive at \$335, was rated among the least effective.

Similar conclusions were reached in testing 16 over-the-counter eye creams.

"Even among the best-performing products, wrinkle reduction around the eyes was generally pretty subtle," the magazine said. "After six weeks of daily use, none came close to eliminating wrinkles."

It said the most expensive, Perricone MD at \$95 a jar, was no better than cheaper drugstore brands.

One recent development in anti-aging skin care is the use of stem cell technology. ReVive's expensive Peau Magnifique is among the new products, claiming to "recruit adult stem cells into brand new stem cells."

Neither Consumer Reports nor the FDA has conducted any specific assessment of Peau Magnifique's effectiveness. On a Web site called Makeupalley.com, some customer reviews raved about it; others trashed it as a waste of money.

Life & Style

Peru celebrates Machu Picchu amid tourism worries

By CARLA SALAZAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Tourists love the enigmatic Inca citadel of Machu Picchu high in Peru's Andes. They may love it too much.

When the country celebrated the 100th anniversary of the re-discovery of the "Lost City of the Incas" in July, archaeologists warned that a heavy flow of visitors and poor administration are threatening one of the wonders of the world.

The Incas built Machu Picchu atop an Andean peak 7,970 feet (2,430 meters) high, with a breathtaking view across the inhospitable abysses that surround it. Some experts believe it was a refuge for one or more Inca rulers, others that it was a religious sanctuary.

The site receives an average of 1,800 visitors a day and the maximum allowed by authorities is 2,500. Already, the former farming village of Aguas Calientes that is used as a jumping-off point for tourists has grown into a town of 4,000 inhabitants with five-star hotels and restaurants.

In some places, authorities have noticed soil erosion and damage to vegetation, Juan Julio Garcia, regional director of Peru's culture ministry, told The Associated Press.

Tourism companies and some local officials constantly pressure authorities to allow even more tourists, arguing it would benefit local communities.

Cultural guardians fear irreparable damages if the tourist flow surges, and they are especially concerned by official plans to build a highway to the remote 15th-century ruin.

Tourists now must reach Machu Picchu by foot or by a scenic, zigzagging narrow-gauge train ride.

"In one way or another, the train controls the flow (of tourists). There is a maximum capacity on the train and this maximum capacity determines how many people can reach the monument. In contrast, with a road, any person or tourism company can reach the site and try to enter the sanctuary," Garcia said.

But rains washed out the rail route in January 2010, trapping 4,000 tourists in the towns of Machu Picchu and Aguas Calientes for five days. Without road access to the area, the government had to airlift tourists out by helicopter. In Aguas Calientes, which serves as a tourist base for Machu Picchu, there were shortages of food.

In September, Peru's Congress approved construction of an access road to Machu Picchu.

That raised a red flag at UNESCO, which inscribed the



AP
In this April 1, 2010 file photo, llamas graze during the reopening of the citadel of Machu Picchu after flooding forced its closure in Cuzco, Peru. The Inca citadel of Machu Picchu is Peru's most famous tourist attraction and celebrates on Thursday July 7, 2011 the 100 year anniversary since its discovery.

Inca stronghold on its World Heritage list in 1983, boosting the site's fame and making it eligible for international technical support. The U.N. agency had already expressed concern about management of the site. It said in 2008 that there were "urgent problems with deforestation, the risk of landslides, uncontrolled urban development and illegal access to the sanctuary."

The U.N. agency threatened to put it on its list of endangered sites if the road project is not canceled, a move that would be a blow to Peru's prestige.

Peruvian tourism authorities insist they are protecting the monument. Carlos Zuniga, head of the Foreign Trade and Tourism office for the Cuzco region, said that officials have given UNESCO proof of concern for Machu Picchu by completing a plan for use of the sanctuary and by issuing a decree that funds generated by tourism to Machu Picchu be used in maintaining the site. Previously, earnings were sent to the central government in the capital, Lima.

Garcia, of the culture ministry, said local authorities support the highway project because they want to break the monopoly of PeruRail, the train company owned by Chilean and British interests. Aguas Calientes Gov. Antonio Sinchi Roca said the monopoly hurts the local economy. "Many entrepreneurs who could reach the zone don't because the cost of transportation is so high."

Machu Picchu was largely unknown to the outside world, abandoned and covered in highland jungle, until July 7, 1911,

when Yale University historian and explorer Hiram Bingham reached Machu Picchu and later announced its existence. He became famous as the site's modern discoverer, though Peruvian Agustin Lizarraga had been there first. He wrote on one of the citadel's stones with a piece of charcoal: "Lizarraga, July 14, 1902, for posterity."

For decades, the site's remoteness, as well as the cost of reaching it, kept foreign tourists at bay. In the 1980s, visitors shunned Peru because of a raging guerrilla conflict that ended in 1999.

In 1991, about 77,000 tourists visited. That number has risen about tenfold over the past decade, reaching more than 800,000 in 2009, the year before the rail line washed away.

The director of Machu Picchu Archaeological Park, Fernando Astete, said the main problem facing the site today is that the area is controlled by rival municipal authorities contending for tourism dollars.

"Local authorities in and around the zone don't know what UNESCO is, they know nothing about it. They don't know they are in a protected area," Astete told The AP.

Many authorities view the citadel as "a marketing issue" and don't make decisions based on technical criteria about conservation of the site, Garcia said.

An example occurred in 2000, when a beer company was allowed to film a television commercial in Machu Picchu. The heavy arm of a crane used in the filming fell onto and damaged the emblematic Intihuatana Stone, which many believe

to be sacred.

This didn't stop authorities from recently permitting the filming of dance scenes for the

Bollywood movie "Endhiran" ("The Robot"), starring former Miss World Aishwarya Rai.

Peru's government had

planned a big celebration in the ruins themselves for the anniversary, but called that off when UNESCO objected.

In Loving Memory of

†Marian Sablan Santos Lovingly known as "Erang"

August 05, 1966 – August 18, 2011
At the age of 45

In Her life, she now joins her:

Father: Antonio Naputi Santos (Chungi)
Mother: Rosario Sablan Santos (Zing)
Brother: Ricardo Sablan Santos
Sister: Francisca Santos DeLeon Guerrero
Rosalina Santos Camacho

She will be greatly missed by her brothers, sisters and in-laws:

†Ricardo S. / Dolores A. Santos (Richard, Robert, Ray, Renee, Reynold, Timmy)
†Francisca S. / Lorenzo A. DeLeon Guerrero (William/ Sabina, Patrick/Faye, Lawrence/ Paulette, Roselle)
Henry S. / Soledad Santos (Jean Marie, Frances)
Antonio S. / Lydia S. Santos (John, Lorraine, Dean Rosco, Sherlyn)
Herman S. / Belen Santos (Hermann, Claudia/ Melvin, Esperlyn/ Koko)
David S. / Virginia S. Santos (Victor/ Vangie, Gina Dee, Davilyn/ Anthony, Verlyn)
Lillian S. / Wilfredo Villagrancia (Kuniwo, Jonathan, Ishidoro, Lheianah)
Norman S. / Rosalia A. Santos
Albert S. / Zerah DLC Santos (Aldebert, Zelma/ Peter, Albert Jr.)
†Rosaline S. / Francisco SN Camacho (Rosalie, Roxanne/ Josh, Frankie/Jeralyn, Ruby Jean)
Alicia S. / Jesse Alerta (April, Abriann, Joshua, Jermaine, Joel, Jesse, Jr., Jared)

She will also be missed by her reared brother and sister: Jesus Malus
Claudia P. Santos/ Melvin Tudela

Godparents: Antonio S. and Elphidia P. Camacho
Rosa S. Pangelinan

She is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at San Vicente Church at 6:00pm followed by Holy Rosary. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, August 26, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 10:00am to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00pm. Interment Service will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank You and Si Yuus Maase

Please Join Us In Prayers,

The Family

For some reality TV stars, turmoil follows fame

By ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Reality came crashing in on Russell Armstrong. With the second season of “The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills” set to premiere on the Bravo cable television channel in a few weeks, and a pending lawsuit and divorce, the venture capitalist-turned reality personality hanged himself.

Armstrong left behind no note explaining why, leaving others to indict and defend a genre that has seen its share of off-screen turmoil that often dwarfs the drama caught on camera.

The headlines include a murder, drug trafficking, overdoses, financial ruin, and custody disputes and divorces that play out in the tabloids as much as they do in courtrooms. Experts cau-

tion reality TV is not solely to blame, but the full impact on its participants and audience is not yet known.

At least temporarily, Armstrong’s suicide has shaken one of the genre’s brash franchises.

Bravo, which airs “The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills,” is re-editing the show’s second season, which had planned to focus on the marital strife between Armstrong and his wife, Taylor. The network did not say how it would alter the unaired episodes, or whether it would incorporate any mentions of suicide prevention resources.

Beyond “Housewives,” few people, including Russell Armstrong’s own attorney, expect the suicide to have broad implications for the reality show industry.

“I don’t think it’ll make any difference at all,” attorney

Ronald Richards said in an interview. He said he hoped the show would remove Armstrong from its storyline altogether, but said his client had been warned of the pitfalls of appearing in a reality series before signing on.

“Housewives” has since its debut in 2006 thrived on the divorces, foreclosures and tempers of its well-heeled cast members’ lives. The Washington, D.C., version starred a couple accused of crashing a state dinner at the White House, and the first season of the New Jersey version ended with one housewife angrily calling a fellow cast member a “whore” and overturning a table while the woman’s children looked on.

Stars of current hit shows such as “Jersey Shore” have revealed in bad behavior, while even those that aim to help have been rocked by off-screen trag-

edy. Two alumni of “Celebrity Rehab”—actor Jeff Conaway and former Alice In Chains bassist Mike Starr have died after their seasons aired.

Richard Hatch, the winner of the first season of the U.S. version of “Survivor,” has waged a years-long battle over unpaid taxes and is currently in prison. Also incarcerated is Adam Jasinski, the winner of “Big Brother 9” who is serving a four-year sentence after pleading guilty to possession with attempt to distribute oxycodone and failure to file a tax return for the year he won the reality show’s \$500,000 prize.

The precise impact of the shows on their stars’ later lives is difficult to determine, yet the Armstrongs are just one of many couples whose relationship failures have been chronicled by reality TV. The TLC-series “Jon and Kate Plus 8” was upended after it was revealed the couple’s marriage was in shambles; the reconfigured show “Kate Plus 8” was recently canceled.

Younger parents are also fair game, with shows such as “Teen Mom” showing not only the custody struggles of young mothers, but a street fight that ended with charges being filed.

“It’s really hard to know what would have happened to these people otherwise,” said Karen Sternheimer, a sociology professor at the University of Southern California. “We don’t have a control group of other drama queens.”

During his sentencing, Jasinski pleaded with a judge for leniency, saying he was being treated for bipolar disorder and had squandered his winnings. “Give me a chance to get out and find out who I really am,” he begged a judge in January before being sent to prison.

Richards said he believes the show contributed to Russell Armstrong’s problems, but he doesn’t



In this Feb. 5, 2011 file photo, television personality Taylor Armstrong, left, and husband Russell Armstrong attend a Super Bowl party in Dallas, Texas. Russell Armstrong, the estranged husband of “Real Housewives of Beverly Hills” star Taylor Armstrong, was found dead in his Los Angeles home on Monday, Aug. 15.

think producers or its network, Bravo, can be sued or punished.

“These are adults,” he said. “I think they have their own obligations.”

Most reality shows do some background checks on participants, but mistakes happen. The screening of Ryan Jenkins, a participant on the VH1 series “Megan Wants a Millionaire,” failed to turn up records that he had assaulted an ex-girlfriend in Canada. His checkered past was not revealed until after he was charged with killing his wife, a model whose body was found stuffed in a suitcase in Southern California with her teeth and fingers removed, in 2009. After evading authorities and reaching Vancouver, British Columbia, Jenkins killed himself in a hotel room.

Major productions use psychological testing to try to predict how participants will respond to the pressures of the show.

“That’s where the biggest problem lies as a psychologist,” said Dr. Richard Levak, who helped develop psychological testing for early seasons of “Survivor,” “The Amazing Race” and “The Contender.”

“You don’t know how they’re going to unravel,” he said.

Producers often want people on their shows who happen to have histories of being abused, depression or other issues. “The most colorful and interesting people were often the ones who have psychological issues,” he said, adding that sometimes the shows can be cathartic. Levak no longer does psychological consults on reality series.

‘Help’ moves upstairs with \$20.5M, No. 1 weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“The Help” continues to clean up at the box office, taking over the No. 1 spot with \$20.5 million in its second weekend. The DreamWorks Pictures film starring Viola Davis, Emma Stone and Octavia Spencer in a drama about Southern black maids had debuted in second-place a week earlier. “The Help” raised its domestic total to \$71.8 million and bumped 20th Century Fox’s “Rise of the Planet of the Apes,” which slipped to No. 2 with \$16.3 million after two weekends at the top, according to studio estimates Sunday.

“Rise of the Planet of the Apes” remains a solid hit, lifting its domestic total to \$133.8 million.

Much as Kathryn Stockett’s novel “The Help” became a best-seller through readers talking it up, the film is holding strong as audiences tell friends to go see it, said Dave Hollis, head of distri-

1. “The Help,” \$20.5 million.
2. “Rise of the Planet of the Apes,” \$16.3 million.
3. “Spy Kids: All the Time in the World,” \$12 million.
4. “Conan the Barbarian,” \$10 million.
5. “Fright Night,” \$8.3 million.
6. “The Smurfs,” \$8 million (\$35.3 million international).
7. “Final Destination 5,” \$7.7 million.
8. “30 Minutes or Less,” \$6.3 million.
9. “One Day,” \$5.1 million.
10. “Crazy, Stupid, Love,” \$5 million.

bution for Disney, which releases DreamWorks films.

While revenues often drop 50 percent or more in the second weekend for big studio films, receipts for “The Help” were down only 21 percent

from opening weekend.

“It is a rare feat to see a film not open at No. 1 and then become No. 1,” Hollis said. “To me, it’s a testament of it being a great film, as well as the viral nature of the word of mouth about it.”

A rush of new movies had weak openings: the Weinstein Co. family sequel “Spy Kids: All the Time in the World” at No. 3 with \$12 million; Lionsgate’s action remake “Conan the Barbarian” at No. 4 with \$10 million; the DreamWorks-Disney horror-comedy remake “Fright Night” at No. 5 with \$8.3 million; and Focus Features’ literary adaptation “One Day” at No. 9 with \$5.1 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

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Conan The Barbarian

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Jason Momoa, Rachel Nichols
 Action Fantasy • Rated R

Synopsis

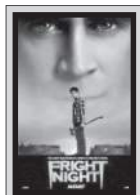
When a powerful force of supernatural evil threatens to destroy Hyboria, legendary Cimmerian warrior Conan (Jason Momoa) raises his sword against mythical monsters and treacherous enemies. Ron Perlman, Rose McGowan, Stephen Lang, and Rachel Nichols co-star in a sweeping fantasy adventure based on the character created by Robert E. Howard, and directed by Marcus Nispel (The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Friday the 13th).



Spy Kids: All the Time in the World

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Jessica Alba, Joel McHale
 Spy film, Adventure • Rated PG



Fright Night

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Collin Farrell, Anthon Yelchin
 Horror • Rated R



Final Destination 5

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Nicholas D'Agosto, Emma Bell
 Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

Death stalks a group of co-workers who avoid a grisly demise in a massive suspension bridge collapse after one of them experiences a terrifying premonition in the fifth installment of the popular Final Destination series. Series regular Tony Todd returns in this sequel starring David Koechner, Emma Bell, Nicholas D'Agosto, and Miles Fisher.



Rise of the Planet of the Apes

Friday	4:20	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:20	

James Franco, Freida Pinto
 Science fiction • Rated PG 13



30 Minutes or Less

Friday	7:05
Saturday	1:05
Sunday	1:05
Mon thru Thurs	7:05

Jesse Eisenberg, Danny McBride
 Comedy • Rated R



The Smurfs

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Hank Azaria, George Lopez
 Children's family, Comedy • Rated PG



Captain America: The First Avenger

Friday	4:05	9:35
Saturday	4:05	9:35
Sunday	4:05	
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	

Chris Evans, Tommy Lee Jones
 Action • Rated PG 13

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‘The Glee Project’ ends with a twist

NEW YORK (AP)—If the creators of “Glee” are looking for new faces to bring into the fold then they’ve found it with “The Glee Project.”

Nineteen-year-old Samuel Larsen from Los Angeles and 18-year-old Damian McGinty of Derry City, Ireland, both won

the inaugural season of the talent competition show where they each get a seven-episode arc on “Glee.”

Larsen, a rocker with dreadlocks, was described as having a “cool, indy, rock spirit” that has been missing from the hit Fox show

The judges believed McGinty, however, was the most likable and most improved.

The show put 12 contestants through a “Glee” bootcamp where they were critiqued on their singing, dancing and acting throughout the 10-week series.

The other finalists, Lindsay

Pearce, 20, and Alex Newell, 18, didn’t go home losers. The show’s co-creator Ryan Murphy was so impressed he decided to write them into two episodes of the show.

“Glee” returns for its new season in September.

Witness: No maltreatment of Russian boy

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A child welfare official has testified that social workers found no signs of maltreatment when they investigated an Alaska woman accused of punishing her adopted son by putting hot sauce in his mouth.

Virginia Moring, a supervisor in the Office of Children’s Services, testified Friday that the social workers decided not to remove the boy from the home of Jessica Beagley.

The 36-year-old Anchorage woman was charged with child abuse after video aired on an American self-help TV talk show showing her using unconventional methods to punish the 7-year-old, who was adopted with his twin brother from a Russian orphanage. The case caused an uproar in Russia after the “Dr. Phil” episode showed Beagley putting the hot sauce in the boy’s mouth, and the boy’s cries could be heard as he is forced to stand in a cold shower.

Her lawyer, William Ingaldson, has said the boy was being disciplined for lying about misbehavior at school.

Moring said social workers made the decision after they interviewed Beagley and her husband, Gary, an Anchorage police officer, as well as their co-workers and officials at the children’s school.

Moring said they also talked to the children, who said “they felt safe,” The Anchorage Daily News reported (<http://bit.ly/oieBlg>). At the conclusion of the investigation, “we did not intervene,” she said.

The boy remained in the home, and Beagley sought help from mental health professionals for what she described as repeated behavioral problems, including urinating on the floor of his bedroom and lying.

Prosecutors claim Beagley went beyond what would be considered reasonable parental discipline. Ingaldson said she resorted to unconventional disciplinary methods because more traditional forms of punishment had not worked with the boy.

Beagley adopted the boy and his brother after their parents abandoned them, Ingaldson said.

The defense rested its case Friday. Beagley waived her right to testify.

Closing arguments were scheduled for Monday.

Woman living on her own leans too heavily on friend

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: “Tracy” and I have been best friends since junior high. (We’re both 31.) A couple of months ago she and her two sons (my “nephews,” ages 9 and 5) moved out of her parents’ home and into their own apartment.

Tracy has never lived on her own before. As a result, she’s constantly asking me to come over, spend the night, keep her company, etc. I’m happy to visit for a couple of hours once a week or so, but feel uncomfortable and pressured doing it to the extent she’s asking. She didn’t act this way when she lived with her parents.

I am single, childless, have my own place and a full-time job. My home is my sanctuary and I value my peace and quiet. The last thing I want at the end of a hectic workday is to go to her apartment and hang out for hours on end with her and her sweet (but loud and rambunctious) boys.

Tracy is also single. She works full-time and is a devoted mom, but there’s an obvious deficiency in her life. I try to encourage her that she’ll grow accustomed to her new life, but it doesn’t stick. How can I make her understand that while I love her dearly, I can’t be her lifelong security blanket?

SMOTHERED IN THE EAST

DEAR SMOTHERED: Do it by explaining to your friend what you CAN give her, rather than what you can’t. If it’s one afternoon or evening a week, arrange your get-together for when you’re available.

Let her know you need time to yourself to unwind after a hectic day at work, that you also need to run errands and do housework. You can be her good friend without coming running every time she snaps her fingers. And remember, she can’t “smother” you any more than you allow.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My niece is getting married in two months, and our invitations just arrived. My daughter, who was divorced last month, was invited with no “and guest” after her name. Who knows? In the next two months she might meet someone she’d like to take to the wedding.

Would it be tacky to respond “two” and see what happens? Or should she take her wounded heart and not go at all? The family knows about her divorce but still addressed her that way.

KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN

DEAR KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN: While it would have been thoughtful to have invited your daughter and an escort, your relatives may have been more preoccupied with financial considerations than the fact that your daughter wouldn’t have a date sitting with her. And yes, it WOULD be tacky to write “two” on the RSVP and “see what happens.”

Consider this: For your daughter to bring a date might invite suspicions that she was involved with the person before her divorce. And to ask a man you don’t know well and have been seeing only a very short time could be construed as rushing things, and might be a turn-off for the man she had her eye on.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: The young lady I have fallen for (and am probably in love with) is half my age. Is it wrong to like someone who is almost young enough to be my daughter?

YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME

DEAR YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME: No, it’s not wrong—it happens frequently. A more pertinent question is could SHE be seriously interested in someone who is almost old enough to be her father? Only she can answer that.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



In this image released by Oxygen, from left, Samuel Larsen, 19, Damian McGinty, 18, Lindsay Pearce, 20, and Alex Newell, 18 make up the final 4 contestants on the reality competition show on “The Glee Project” on Oxygen.

Tracey Emin neon lights up 10 Downing Street

LONDON (AP)—A new message is greeting visitors to the home of Britain’s prime minister: “More Passion.”

The words, rendered in dazzling neon, are a work by artist Tracey Emin that is now hanging in 10 Downing St.

Prime Minister David Cameron’s office said Sunday that the work was installed earlier this week in a busy hallway, above the door to Downing St.’s Terracotta Room.

It stands in contrast to the oil paintings and portraits of former prime ministers elsewhere in the 300-year-old house, which serves as the British leader’s office and London home.

Emin said earlier this year that she wanted to hang a piece

in Downing St. to give the building “a bit of an edge.” She was invited to install the neon sign by Cameron, a fan of her work.

One of the “Young British Artists” who burst onto the art scene in the 1990s, Emin is renowned for her provocative and confessional art. Her most famous works include a recreation of her disheveled bed—complete with soiled clothing and empty vodka bottles—and an appliqued tent entitled “Everyone I Have Ever Slept With.”

She also has created a series of neon messages—most of them heartfelt, some of them rude.

Emin, 48, said she would keep her message clean for Downing St.

“It has to be something that will relate to different people on different levels because of all the dignitaries and world leaders and religious groups who go to No. 10, so it has to be something that’s fitting for that situation,” she was quoted as saying by the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

Emin has donated the piece to the Government Art Collection, a trove of more than 13,000 works by British artists from the 16th century onwards.

The works, which range from paintings by Hans Holbein, John Constable and J.M.W. Turner to pieces by Emin and Damien Hirst, are used to adorn government buildings and British embassies.

Rapper arrested in Ohio after organizing flash mob

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Authorities say rapper Machine Gun Kelly organized a flash mob at a suburban Cleveland mall and was charged with disorderly conduct.

Strongsville police say the group gathered Saturday, and mall management asked three people standing on a table near a

second-floor railing to step down. Kelly was among the three. When they refused, police were called.

Police say they’re no longer in custody. Kelly tweeted later that “today was a statement.”

Sean “P. Diddy” Combs told MTV this month that he signed Kelly, an Ohio native, to his Bad Boy Records label.

“Machine Gun” was the nickname of George Kelly, a Prohibition-era gangster in the 1920s and 30s.

The Plain Dealer reports that Cleveland’s mayor recently vetoed an ordinance that would have criminalized some uses of social media and was aimed at curbing flash mobs.

British comedian dressed as Gadhafi attacked

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP)—A British comedian says he was attacked with a bottle at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival while dressed as Moammar Gadhafi.

Jeff Mirza was handing out flyers on the street for his show, dressed as the embattled Libyan leader, when a man ap-

proached and asked for a cigarette. Mirza said he shook his head and the man walked on, but when Mirza turned around he was hit on the back of the head with a bottle. He was not seriously hurt.

Mirza is at the annual festival with his show “Jihad: Heresy or Hearsay.”

The comedian said Sunday that most festivalgoers had been welcoming. He said “most people at the Fringe get the joke of me being dressed up as a washed up dictator trying to sell the show.”

Police say they do not believe the Aug. 14 attack was racially motivated.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of
RAYMOND S. FITIAL,
Deceased.

Civil Action
No. 11-0171-A

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION; NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE RAYMOND S. FITIAL OR OF HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Marianas Public Land Trust ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration of the Estate of Raymond S. Fitial, deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Esq., Attorney at Law.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Petitioner has been set for 6th day of September, 2011 at 1:30pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma'Hustisia, Saipan. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Deceased or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, P. O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2011.

/s/CLERK OF COURT

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK
Plaintiff,

-v-

ALEINA D. HOFSCHEIDER,
ALVIN U. HOFSCHEIDER,
and LOUISE C.
HOFSCHEIDER,
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 09-0505

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 3, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 0051547, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered on May 14, 1982, as Document No. 14232, at the Land Registry, Saipan; and (b) Lot 1734 NEW-7-5 (formerly part of Lot 1734 NEW-3, which was part of original Lot 1734, T.D. 661), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2017/90, the original of which was recorded on November 15, 1989, as Document No. 89-3805, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 16, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 4th day of August, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Damon loses slam in review, hits winning HR in 9th



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—

Johnny Damon lost a grand slam to a video review in the seventh inning, then hit a game-ending home run in the ninth that lifted the Tampa Bay Rays over the Seattle Mariners 8-7 Sunday.

Damon connected for a lead-off shot in the ninth on the first pitch from Dan Cortes (0-2), sending his 11th homer of the season into the right-field seats.

The Rays trailed 5-4 in the seventh when Damon launched a drive to right-center field. First ruled a home run, the umpires changed the call to a three-run double after a video review.

After blowing an early four-run lead, Seattle tied it at 7 during the eighth when Willy Mo Pena hit a long two-run homer to center off James Shields.

Yankees 3, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Alex Rodriguez went hitless from five at bats in his return to the lineup, but Curtis Granderson hit an inside-the-park home run as New York took three of four from Minnesota.

Mark Teixeira also homered and Ivan Nova (13-4) pitched seven shutout innings for the Yankees, who had Rodriguez for the first time since July 7.

Nova allowed five hits and struck out five to rebound from a poor start in Kansas City and Mariano Rivera picked up his 33rd save in 38 tries.

Joe Mauer had three hits for the Twins, who lost starter Nick Blackburn in the second inning because of a strained right forearm. Phil Dumatra (1-2) got the loss in two innings of relief.

Tigers 8, Indians 7

In Detroit, center fielder Austin Jackson threw out Kosuke Fukudome at the plate to complete a game-ending double play as first-place Detroit completed a three-game sweep of Cleveland.

Delmon Young and Victor Martinez homered in the Tigers' seven-run third inning.

Jose Valverde pitched the ninth for his 37th save in as many tries, but it wasn't easy. He walked Fukudome to start the inning and then hit Jason Donald on an 0-2 pitch. Jack Hannahan bunted the runners over, before pinch-hitter Matt LaPorta lined to center field and Jackson threw a perfect strike to get Fukudome by a step.

Red Sox 6, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jon Lester curbed Kansas City on three hits for six-plus innings and Jason Varitek tripled for the first time in more than four years.

Carl Crawford and Darnell McDonald hit solo home runs for Boston.

Lester (13-7) has allowed two runs and six hits in 13 innings in his past two starts to beat Kansas City and Tampa Bay.

Varitek's two-out triple rolled to the right-center fence, allow-



Tampa Bay Rays' Johnny Damon, center, is congratulated after hitting a walk-off home run in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners on Sunday, Aug. 21, 2011, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

ing Jed Lowrie to score in the fifth to break a scoreless deadlock. Lowrie led off the inning with a single and moved to second on a Crawford ground out. Varitek's triple was his first since June 24, 2007, at San Diego off Jake Peavy.

McDonald, who had three hits, hit his fifth home run of the season in the sixth on an 0-2 pitch from Royals rookie left-hander Danny Duffy (3-7).

White Sox 10, Rangers 0

In Chicago, Gavin Floyd pitched shutout ball into the eighth inning, and Brent Lillibridge and Alex Rios hit two-run homers, as Chicago took two of three from the AL-West leading Texas.

Chicago finished its first winning homestand (5-4) since June 3-12.

Floyd (11-10) coasted with a big lead. He allowed just three hits, struck out six and walked one.

The Rangers have dropped three of four after winning the first six games on their 10-game road trip.

Blue Jays 1, Athletics 0

In Oakland, California, Luis Perez pitched brilliantly in his first big league start, combining with Casey Janssen on a one-hitter, and Jose Bautista connected for his majors-best 36th home run for Toronto.

Bautista broke up a scoreless game with a deep drive into the left-field bleachers on the 10th pitch he saw from Guillermo Moscoso (6-7) leading off the seventh.

Perez (3-2) didn't allow an Athletics runner until Cliff Pen-

nington drew a five-pitch walk to start the sixth. Jemile Weeks later singled up the middle to load the bases, but Perez induced an inning-ending double play by Coco Crisp with his final pitch.

Janssen struck out five in three innings, earning his second save in three chances this season and ninth of his career.

Angels 7, Orioles 1

In Anaheim, California, Jerome Williams pitched seven stellar innings to get his first major league victory in almost six years, Peter Bourjos homered for the third straight game and Howie Kendrick also went deep, leading Los Angeles.

Williams (1-0) posted his first victory in the majors since Sept. 25, 2005 with the Chicago Cubs, after losing his previous eight decisions. The 29-year-old Hawaiian-born right-hander allowed a run and six hits over seven innings, struck out six and walked none.

Brian Matusz (1-6) threw 84 pitches over four innings, giving up six runs and eight hits.

Torii Hunter's hitting streak ended at 18 games (0 for 5) after Baltimore center fielder Adam Jones robbed him of a home run in the fourth.

Brewers 6, Mets 2

In New York, Prince Fielder drove in the go-ahead run on a botched potential double-play grounder in the eighth and Yovani Gallardo shut down the Mets for seven innings, leading the Milwaukee Brewers to a victory for their first series sweep in New York.

Casey McGehee homered off R.A. Dickey in the fourth and Ryan Braun had three hits, an RBI and scored twice after stealing bases for the Brewers.

Milwaukee won three straight in Queens to send the Mets six games under .500 for the first time since May 4 with a thorough display of superior baseball this weekend. Shaun Marcum stifled New York on Friday in a 6-1 win. Fielder and the Brewers rallied Saturday after blowing a late six-run lead for an 11-9 victory, and Gallardo (14-8) gave up six hits in the finale to match a career high for wins.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Albert Pujols hit his 31st home run and Yadier Molina homered twice as St. Louis beat Chicago.

Pujols had four hits and took the National League lead in homers. Matt Holliday added three hits and John Jay homered, doubled and scored twice for St. Louis.

Jake Westbrook (10-7) held the Cubs to seven hits and two runs in seven innings, beating Chicago for the first time in three starts this season as the Cardinals salvaged the last game of a three-game series.

Aramis Ramirez had two hits and drove in both of Chicago's runs.

Braves 1, Diamondbacks 0

In Atlanta, Tim Hudson combined with two relievers on a five-hit shutout, and Alex Gonzalez homered as Atlanta completed a three-game sweep of

slumping Arizona.

The Diamondbacks have lost five straight to match their longest skid of the season.

Hudson (13-7) allowed only three hits with three walks and seven strikeouts in seven scoreless innings. Jonny Venters pitched the eighth before Craig Kimbrel escaped trouble in the ninth to earn his 39th save.

Right-hander Josh Collmenter (7-8) gave up only four hits and one run in seven innings but saw his streak of road starts without a win extended to nine.

Reds 5, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Cincinnati scored twice in the ninth inning to hand All-Star closer Joel Hanrahan his second loss in three days and take two of three from Pittsburgh.

Ramon Hernandez hit an RBI-single to tie the game with one out in the top of the ninth and Dave Sappelt scored on Brandon Phillips' fielder's choice.

Joey Votto added a three-run homer for the Reds. Jose Arredondo (3-3) pitched two perfect innings in relief and Francisco Cordero survived an eventful ninth to earn his 26th save.

Garrett Jones and Andrew McCutchen each hit two-run homers for Pittsburgh, which had been 52-0 when leading after eight innings.

Giants 6, Astros 4, 11 innings

In Houston, Pablo Sandoval hit a tie-breaking two-run homer with two out in the 11th inning to propel San Francisco past Houston.

The score had been tied 4-4

since the fourth inning and the Giants missed several chances to take the lead until Sandoval's 15th homer off Mark Melancon (6-4).

Jeremy Affeldt (2-2) pitched two innings for the victory. He has allowed one earned in 17 1-3 innings since the All-Star break.

Brandon Belt hit a three-run homer in the second inning and had a career high four hits for the Giants.

Rockies 5, Dodgers 3

In Denver, Kevin Millwood pitched seven strong innings for his first big league win in nearly a year and Seth Smith hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the seventh, leading Colorado to snap a string of 17 straight Sunday losses.

The Rockies hadn't won on Sunday since beating the Chicago Cubs 9-5 on April 17.

Chad Billingsley (10-10) went 7 2-3 innings for the Dodgers, allowing five runs on three hits. He struck out seven and walked five.

Rafael Betancourt got three outs for his second save in five chances.

Nationals 5, Phillies 4, 10 innings

In Washington, Ian Desmond hit a tying homer with two outs in the ninth inning, then Jonny Gomes was nicked by a pitch from Brad Lidge with the bases loaded in the 10th as Washington broke Philadelphia's streak of eight straight winning road series.

It was the second improbable victory in three games for the Nationals. They beat the Phillies, who have the best record in the majors, with a six-run rally in the ninth Friday night.

Ryan Zimmerman, who hit a game-ending grand slam Friday night, started the 10th with a leadoff double against Lidge (0-1). Michael Morse was walked intentionally and Jayson Werth, after striking out three times, singled to load the bases.

Padres 4, Marlins 3

In San Diego, Nick Hundley tripled leading off the bottom of the ninth and scored on Will Venable's bases-loaded single to give San Diego a four-game sweep of Florida.

The Padres swept the seven-game season series. Overall, San Diego has won eight straight against the Marlins.

On the day the Padres honored all-time saves leader Trevor Hoffman by retiring his No. 51, Heath Bell (3-4) blew the save by allowing Mike Cameron's solo homer with two outs in the ninth.

Hundley started the winning rally in the bottom of the inning with a triple off the bottom of the center field wall against Edward Mujica (8-5). It was the fourth triple in the last six games for Hundley, the Padres' catcher.

Cory Luebke struck out eight in six innings for the Padres.

Petron plays Grand Slam spoiler

» Stops TNT in the 2011 PBA Governors Cup

By MUSONG R. CASTILLO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—Grand Slam slammed. Down to 10 players for one of the most important PBA matches in franchise history, Petron Blaze Sunday night completed the improbable by turning back Talk ‘N Text, 85-73, in a Game 7 to remember that made the Tropang Texters miss their date with destiny. With steely resolve that countered the most powerful roster on paper, the Boosters were the epitome of total team play all night to control the rubber match 99 percent of the way and bag the season-ending Governors’ Cup before 17,000 boisterous fans at the Smart Araneta Coliseum. Trailing just twice all game, the Boosters tenaciously held their ground in the face of a dogged Talk ‘N Text stand as Anthony Grundy made up for a lackluster Game 6 while getting support from a shorthanded local lineup that played with the heart befitting champions. Grundy scattered 26 points, half of them coming in the third period where the Boosters blew control only to re-

gain it just as quick and put away Talk ‘N Text’s aspirations of joining the immortal squads in the league which have completed Grand Slams. Arwind Santos scored 16 points, had 16 rebounds, three blocks and three steals as he literally put a huge hand in winning his first championship while bagging the PBA Press Corps-Phoenix Fuels MVP Finals award. Maurice Baker led the Texters with 22 points, Ranidel de Ocampo added 15 and Kelly Williams and Jimmy Alapag had 13 each, but the Texters couldn’t buy the buckets when they needed them and absorbed one of the most stinging losses in their PBA existence. It was the 19th overall championship for Petron/San Miguel, which scored its version of the Grand Slam in 1989 when now-coach Ato Agustin was one of its superstar guards. “They made a mistake when they picked us to be their Finals opponent,” Agustin addressed the crowd in Filipino at midcourt in the din of the celebration. “This is my sweetest championship.” And in the 36-year history of the PBA, only one other team before Talk ‘N Text, the defunct Toyota Comets in 1975, was able to come within a championship of completing a Grand Slam before losing in the Third Conference Finals. Crispa, which completed the first



Triple Crown sweep the following year, spoiled Toyota’s march to PBA immortality by pounding out a 96-91 decision, interestingly enough, also in the rubber match of their series, which was a Game 5. Sunkist also won the first two conferences of the 1995 season only to fail to make the Finals of the Third Conference, while Alaska, which scored its treble the following year, gave up its shot at a second Grand Slam in 1998 with the Centennial Team. The Uytensu franchise loaned its coach, Tim Cone, and superstars Jojo Lastimosa, Bong Hawkins, Kenneth Duremdes and Johnny Abarrientos to the Philippine Five that played in the Bangkok Asian Games that year. Jason Castro played through an MCL tear to spark the Texters in Game 6, but couldn’t ignore the pain of a severely twisted left ankle suffered in the third quarter Sunday night. After being helped back into the locker room with 9:35 left in the third, Castro returned in the fourth but was clearly hobbled—and much obvious this time—and had to ask coach Chot Reyes to relieve him after just a few minutes on the floor. Baker, who played just his second game in the Finals after taking over from Scottie Reynolds, was playing

well in the first half until he was slapped with his fourth foul while trying to stop Miranda from taking a keyhole jumper. He was scoreless in the third period as the Boosters regained control after trailing for just the second time in the contest, 41-42, courtesy of a Williams three-point play off Grundy with 9:22 to play. The Texters were able to chop down what was once a 14-point deficit to six a number of times in the second quarter and had a golden chance to come into the halftime break just four points behind only for Santos to swat away a De Ocampo slam attempt. Talk ‘N Text led just once in the first half—3-0 after a Jimmy Alapag triple—only for the Boosters to shoot five straight points and play with command until the end of the first two quarters. Santos gave the Boosters a 24-13 lead with 2:50 left in the first period after a jumper. He also hit a short stab off the glass with 7:35 left in the second period for a 34-21 lead.

Petron 85 – Grundy 26, Santos 16, Miranda 16, Ildefonso 13, Cabagnet 12, Pennisi 2, Duncil 0, Hubalde 0, Salvacion 0.
Talk ‘N Text 73 – Baker 22, De Ocampo 15, Williams 13, Alapag 13, Carey 6, Castro 2, Peek 2, Dillinger 0, Reyes 0, Aban 0m Fonacier 0, Alvarez 0.
Quarters: 28-17, 40-34, 64-53, 85-73.

SLUGGERS

From Page 28

Micronesian Games and also bowed to the Commonwealth in the semifinals of

the Micro Games in Palau last year. Majority of the CNMI sluggers who competed in Palau are playing again in New Caledonia, so chemistry will be the Commonwealth’s main advantage in this year’s Games. Returning for another tour

of duty with the CNMI are Cepeda, Santos, Iguel, Omar, Flores, Maratita, Jones, Lizama, Sablan, and Joab. Expecting to join the CNMI sluggers in New Caledonia later this week are beach volleyball’s Tyce Mister and

Chris Nelson, athletics’ Trevor Ogu-moro, Douglas Dillay, and Rachel Abrams, and golf’s Jess Wabol, Adam Hardwicke, Tony Satur, and Jeff Taylor. Leading the CNMI delegates is NMASA president Michael White.

SWEEP

From Page 28

defeating Saipan Swim Club’s Hannah Palacios (35.54). Conner won the finals in the two other events, after recording 41.45 seconds in the 40m breaststroke and 36.93 seconds in the 40m backstroke. Palacios placed runner-up in both events with her 54.93 seconds and 39.88 seconds in the 40m breaststroke and 40m backstroke, respectively. In the boys division, Kimura topped his first event—the 40m freestyle—after

registering 21.63 seconds and downing teammate Shigeki Tenorio (21.67 seconds), and Hong Kong’s Wai Long Cheng, (23.13), Ho Man Chan (23.60) and Billy Chan (24.77 seconds). In the 40m breaststroke, Tsunami Saipan had another 1-2 finish with Kimura timing in at 25.72 and Tenorio tallying 25.79. Ho Man Chan (28.25) and Dickson Hung (29.67) and Tsunami Saipan’s Kaito Yanai (29.02) completed the Top 5. Tsunami Saipan then occupied four of the Top 5 spots in the 40m backstroke with Kimura in first place with

his 23.76 seconds, followed by Tenorio (27.28), Kaisai Toda (28.43), Hung (29.25), and Takumi Sugie (29.30). Kimura and Tenorio gave Tsunami Saipan another 1-2 finish in the 40m butterfly, as they timed in at 23.41 and 23.49 seconds, respectively. Ho Man Chang, Cheng, and Hung were ranked third to fifth. In the 80m IM, Tsunami Saipan had a Top 3 finish with Kaito Yanai (57.73) joining runner-up Tenorio (54.93) and winner Kimura (51.04). Hung and Sugie were tied for fourth with similar times of 58.51 seconds.

The boys division also had the B Finals with Kaisai Toda ruling three events (40m freestyle, 40m breaststroke, and 80m IM) and Tenorio and Kaito Yanai prevailing in the 40m backstroke, and 40m butterfly, respectively. At the end of the one-day competition, three swimmers were recognized for their impressive performance in the goodwill meet. Kimura was awarded the “Most Outstanding Swimmer” trophy, while Hung and Tenorio took home the Tsunami Saipan Coach award and Sword Fish Club Coach plum, respectively.

CNMI

From Page 28

are seeking the six slots in the board. Besides the election, the proposed changes in the IAAF competition rules and selection of the association’s awardees will also be decided in the two-day affair. As for the competition proper, both Pharmin and Bennett will see action in the first day of the World Championships

this Saturday. The two sprinters will race in the 100m run at the Daegu Stadium. Pharmin left Saipan for Korea last night and will be running in the qualifying heat in Korea on Saturday at 12:55pm (1:55pm Sapan time). “This is my second year in track and field and I do not expect a lot because I still have a lot of work and learning to do. The great thing about it is that I still have that desire to do the work and to learn more. However, I do expect to set a personal best in the 100m

race,” Pharmin said when asked about his goals in Korea. Pharmin suited up for the CNMI Team in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau and finished fourth in the octathlon competition. In the CNMI National Championships in May, he timed in at 12.69 seconds in the 100m run. The Commonwealth sprinter has been training with the pool of NMA athletes for the past three months and went through several weekly time trials before he left for Korea yesterday.

Bennett is not part of the NMA athletes training at the Oleai Sports Complex, as she is based in Boise, Idaho. She is expected to arrive in Korea tomorrow, three days before she races in the 100m qualifying heat at 11:30am (12:30pm Saipan time). It will be Bennett’s third stint at the World Championships and she will be aiming to reset the CNMI and Micronesian record (12.52 seconds) she posted in the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships in Apia, Samoa in June.

ESTOLAS

From Page 28

per game, followed by the Hoopaholics’ Dave Sablan (21.5 ppg), NMBA/Mixed Blood’s Dennis Morales (21 ppg), and Ali’i Konflikt’s Ivan Devero (20.5). Proa has played only two games and Iguel scored 20 in the first match over MAFEA and 24 against VisMinda/Satbahi. Sablan played in all of the Hoopaholics four matches and had his

best scoring night against Cabalen/Noni, firing 23 points. Morales and Devero’s highest scores in four games were 25 (over MDX) and 26 (against Mobil), respectively. In the rebounds department, VisMinda’s Darwin Barbo lords it over against five others. The VisMinda center averaged 12.5 rebounds in three games to lead Cavite’s Tim Wesley (10.75), the Hoopaholics’ Kelvin Fitial (10) and Mel Manibusan (9.25), Proa’s Jack Lizama (9),

and Mobil’s Gyles Ruloked (9). The Hoopaholics’ Dave Sablan is currently ranked No. 1 in assists with his 4.5 average per game, followed by Jack Lizama (4), Mobil’s Ron Gamboa (2.5), VisMinda’s Rolly Paraiso (2.5), and MAFEA’s J.R. Barrios (2.5). In steals, there is a thee-way tie among Proa’s Dan Barcinas and Quincy Johnson and Cavite’s Mike Olaiti-man, as they averaged five per match. Elmer Esdrelon is in second with 3.5, while VisMinda’s Marlon Sison and

Estolas are tied with an average of three steals each. Wesley leads the league in blocks with 2.75 per game, ahead of MAFEA’s Jawn Joyner (2.25), Jack Lizama (2), and NMBA’s Arthur Montes (2). In the team standings, Proa is the lone undefeated squad with its 2-0 record. Bayani, VisMinda, and the Hoopaholics are in a deadlock for second with similar 3-1 slates, followed by Cabalen (2-1), MAFEA (2-2), NMBA (1-2), MDX (0-4), and Cavite (0-4).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	77	48	.616	—
Boston	77	49	.611	1/2
Tampa Bay	69	56	.552	8
Toronto	65	62	.512	13
Baltimore	47	77	.379	29 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	68	58	.540	—
Cleveland	62	61	.504	4 1/2
Chicago	63	63	.500	5
Minnesota	55	71	.437	13
Kansas City	52	76	.406	17

West Division

Texas	73	55	.570	—
Los Angeles	69	59	.539	4
Oakland	57	70	.449	15 1/2
Seattle	53	72	.424	18 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	81	44	.648	—
Atlanta	76	52	.594	6 1/2
Washington	61	64	.488	20
New York	60	66	.476	21 1/2
Florida	57	70	.449	25

Central Division

Milwaukee	76	52	.594	—
St. Louis	67	60	.528	8 1/2
Cincinnati	62	65	.488	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	59	66	.472	15 1/2
Chicago	56	71	.441	19 1/2
Houston	42	85	.331	33 1/2

West Division

Arizona	69	58	.543	—
San Francisco	68	60	.531	1 1/2
Colorado	60	68	.469	9 1/2
San Diego	59	70	.457	11
Los Angeles	57	69	.452	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 6, N.Y. Mets 2
Atlanta 1, Arizona 0
Cincinnati 5, Pittsburgh 4
Washington 5, Philadelphia 4, 10 innings
San Francisco 6, Houston 4, 11 innings
Colorado 5, L.A. Dodgers 3
San Diego 4, Florida 3
St. Louis 6, Chicago Cubs 2
Detroit 8, Cleveland 7
Tampa Bay 8, Seattle 7
Boston 6, Kansas City 1
N.Y. Yankees 3, Minnesota 0
Chicago White Sox 10, Texas 0
L.A. Angels 7, Baltimore 1
Toronto 1, Oakland 0

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP)—Final scores Sunday at the Wyndham Championship, a \$5.2 million PGA event played at the par-70, 7,117-yard Sedgefield Country Club:

FINAL ROUND

Webb Simpson (500), \$936,000	66-65-64-67—262
George McNeill (300), \$561,600	65-70-66-64—265
Tommy Gainey (190), \$353,600	63-65-69-69—266
Charles Howell III (104), \$196,040	69-65-66-67—267
Jerry Kelly (104), \$196,040	67-66-69-65—267
Kyung-tae Kim, \$196,040	69-67-65-66—267
Carl Pettersson (104), \$196,040	65-70-63-69—267
Vijay Singh (104), \$196,040	65-69-68-65—267
Jim Furyk (75), \$140,400	65-67-69-67—268
Chez Reavie (75), \$140,400	66-69-68-65—268
Camilo Villegas (75), \$140,400	70-64-68-66—268
Jason Bohn (59), \$101,920	65-68-67-69—269
Joe Durant (59), \$101,920	67-70-67-65—269
Davis Love III (59), \$101,920	70-67-66-66—269
John Mallinger (59), \$101,920	68-65-65-71—269
Scott McCarron (59), \$101,920	68-67-69-65—269
Retief Goosen (51), \$65,780	67-65-68-70—270
Justin Leonard (51), \$65,780	66-67-68-69—270
Pat Perez (51), \$65,780	68-69-68-65—270
Tim Petrovic (51), \$65,780	68-66-67-69—270
Aron Price (51), \$65,780	72-65-68-65—270
Heath Slocum (51), \$65,780	70-64-67-69—270
Daniel Summerhays (51), \$65,780	66-65-68-71—270
David Toms (51), \$65,780	66-70-69-65—270
Tim Herron (44), \$40,560	65-68-68-70—271
Jarrold Lyle (44), \$40,560	68-66-69-68—271
John Rollins (44), \$40,560	67-67-68-69—271
Josh Teater (44), \$40,560	70-66-69-66—271
Michael Thompson (44), \$40,560	68-69-66-68—271
Blake Adams (37), \$28,964	68-65-70-69—272
Stuart Appleby (37), \$28,964	64-67-70-71—272
Briny Baird (37), \$28,964	68-69-68-67—272
Ernie Els (37), \$28,964	65-66-69-72—272
Lucas Glover (37), \$28,964	70-65-69-68—272
Billy Horschel (37), \$28,964	67-67-66-72—272
Brandt Jobe (37), \$28,964	69-67-67-69—272
Marc Leishman (37), \$28,964	68-68-67-69—272
Rod Pampling (37), \$28,964	68-69-66-69—272
Alexandre Rocha (37), \$28,964	66-66-70-70—272
Kris Blankens (28), \$19,240	69-65-69-70—273
Brendon de Jonge (28), \$19,240	69-67-65-72—273
Tom Gillis (28), \$19,240	68-68-68-69—273
Bill Lunde (28), \$19,240	67-67-68-71—273
Will MacKenzie (28), \$19,240	68-65-71-69—273
Nick O'Hern (28), \$19,240	68-68-67-70—273
Kevin Stadler (28), \$19,240	69-65-68-71—273
Chad Campbell (22), \$13,749	68-67-68-71—274
Paul Casey (22), \$13,749	65-67-69-73—274
Padraig Harrington (22), \$13,749	69-68-69-68—274
Jeff Quinney (22), \$13,749	63-70-71-70—274
Cameron Tringale (22), \$13,749	69-67-69-69—274
Charles Warren (16), \$12,005	67-68-75-65—275
Bud Cauley, \$12,005	69-68-68-70—275
Greg Chalmers (16), \$12,005	66-70-71-68—275
Nathan Green (16), \$12,005	67-69-69-70—275
William McGirt (16), \$12,005	69-64-72-70—275
Vaughn Taylor (16), \$12,005	66-68-67-74—275
Johnson Wagner (16), \$12,005	69-67-67-72—275
Woody Austin (10), \$11,336	67-70-68-71—276
Jim Herman (10), \$11,336	70-64-68-74—276
Kent Jones (10), \$11,336	68-66-72-70—276
Sunghoon Kang (10), \$11,336	68-67-70-71—276
Kevin Kisner (10), \$11,336	70-67-71-68—276
Joseph Bramlett (7), \$10,972	69-67-70-71—277
David Duval (7), \$10,972	67-69-72-69—277
John Daly (3), \$10,608	69-68-70-71—278
Andres Gonzales (3), \$10,608	68-69-69-72—278
Lee Janzen (3), \$10,608	65-69-70-74—278
Patrick Reed, \$10,608	66-68-71-73—278
Jimmy Walker (3), \$10,608	65-71-74-68—278
Joe Ogilvie (1), \$10,296	72-65-70-72—279
D.J. Brngman (1), \$10,140	66-69-75-75—285
Jim Renner (1), \$10,140	66-70-75-74—285

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Natibu T-Ball League

Photos by WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



A Braves player swings for the fences in last Aug. 13's 2011 Natibu T-Ball League game against the Razcals.



A Razcals player catches a fly ball in their 2011 Natibu T-Ball League game against the Braves.



A Rookies player fields a high hop off bouncer in last Aug. 13's 2011 Natibu T-Ball League game against the Bears.



A Bears player keys in on a fly ball in last Aug. 13's 2011 Natibu T-Ball League game against the Rookies at the Micro Beach field.



A Bears player rounds second base and heads to third in last Aug. 13's 2011 Natibu T-Ball League game against the Rookies at the Micro Beach field.



A Rookies player races to home late to catch a Bears runner at the plate in last Aug. 13's 2011 Natibu T-Ball League game held at the Micro Beach field.



A Bears player fires a throw over to first base for a potential double-play in last Aug. 13's 2011 Natibu T-Ball League game against the Rookies at the Micro Beach field.



Some Rookies players race to field a ball in last Aug. 13's 2011 Natibu T-Ball League game against the Bears at Micro Beach field.



A Rookies player tracks down the ball in their 2011 Natibu T-Ball League game against the Bear at the Micro Beach field.



A Razcals player races to first base to close an out in their 2011 Natibu T-Ball League game against the Braves held at the Micro Beach field last Aug. 13.



**Simpson wins
Wyndham
for 1st PGA
Tour title**
PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Damon loses
slam in review,
hits winning
HR in 9th**
PAGE 24



28 TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI sluggers off to New Caledonia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Baseball Team left for New Caledonia yesterday morning to compete in the 2011 Pacific Games.



The Commonwealth sluggers were the first batch of CNMI athletes to leave Saipan for the quadrennial competition that will kick off this Saturday. The squad has an 18-player roster with Tony Rogolifoi serving as manager.

The roster includes Joshua Jones, Juan Maratita, Eric Tenorio, Ian Rogolifoi, Nate Guerrero, Keoni Lizama, Mike Iguel, Vince Cepeda, Elton Santos, Jesus Iguel, Tyrone Omar, Franco Flores, Thomas Joab, Jerome Delos Santos, Byron Kaipat, Pete Tomokane, Manny Sablan, and Craig Sanchez, who will also serve as player/coach. Leading the CNMI baseball delegation is Saipan Major League president Rose Igitol. They boarded a connecting flight to Narita, Japan at 6am yesterday and are expected to arrive in Noumea today.

The CNMI sluggers will be compet-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Josh Jones, seen here getting ready to pitch against Palau in the 2010 Micronesian Games, is one of the many returnees on the CNMI Team that left Saipan for New Caledonia yesterday morning to compete in the 2011 Pacific Games.

ing for the baseball gold medal against the host New Caledonia, Palau, Guam, Fiji, and American Samoa. The six participating teams will play in a round-robin competition with only the Top 4 teams advancing to the playoffs.

The CNMI will debut in the Pacific Games against Palau on Aug. 30 and then will play New Caledonia, Guam, American Samoa, and Fiji.

Against Palau, the CNMI bets will be eyeing for vengeance, as they lost to them in the gold medal match in last year's Micronesian Games in Koror.

This is the first time in the last four editions of the Pacific Games that the CNMI is fielding a team in the baseball event and the Commonwealth is aiming to continue Micronesia's domination at the ballfield and join previous winners Palau and Guam.

Palau is the defending champion in the Games, as it beat New Caledonia in 2007 when Apia, Samoa hosted the competition. American Samoa took the bronze in the 2007 edition of the Games. Guam won back-to-back titles, as it reigned supreme in the baseball competition in the Pacific Games in 2003 in Fiji and in 1999 when it hosted the Games. Guam, which did not send a team in the 2007 Pacific Games, also took the gold medal in the Mini Games in Palau in 2005.

Guam lost to the CNMI in the 2006 See **SLUGGERS** on **Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bayani/Mobil's Jun Estolas pulls up for a shot against MAFE/Al'i'i Konflikt's Jawn Joyner during their game in the UFO caging last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

Estolas leads UFO Bud Cup scoring

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Bayani/Mobil gunner Jun Estolas is on top of the scoring leaderboard in the ongoing UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League Viso-Bud Cup 2011.

In four games, the Mobil guard averaged 25.75 points. Estolas' biggest output came during their game against UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics when he scored 32 points. He had another 30-point production against MDX during their third game and then tallied 22 in their 79-76 loss to MAFE/Al'i'i Konflikt. Last year's Mythical Five member collected 19 points in their first game of the season against Cavite/Andok's.

Namfrel/Proa's Pete Iguel is in second place, averaging 22.5 points See **ESTOLAS** on **Page 26**

Sweep for Kimura, Tan

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Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura and Angel Marie Tan dominated the 2011 Hong Kong-Saipan Goodwill Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The two swimmers swept the finals of the five events in the 20-meter competition, besting fellow Tsunami Saipan bets and the visiting members of Hong Kong Sword Fish Swim Club.

In the 40m freestyle A Finals, Tan timed in at 25.37 seconds, beating teammate Angel De Jesus (25.50), Hong Kong's Wing Ting Yip (27.00) and Sing Ying So (29.06), and Tsunami Saipan's Julie Conner (29.66).

The 12-year-old swimmer's four



Kimura



Tan



other victories came in the 40m breaststroke (31.72 seconds), 40m backstroke (29.15), 40m butterfly (27.83), and the 800m individual medley (1:02.66). De Jesus placed second to Tan in the 40m breaststroke, 40m backstroke, and 80m IM, and third in the 40m butterfly.

Yip foiled Tsunami Saipan's sweep

for the Top 2 finishes in all five events after a runner-up swim in the 40m butterfly. The Hong Kong bet then placed third in the 80m IM and 40m freestyle and fourth in 40m breaststroke and 40m backstroke. So had her best finish in the 40m breaststroke, claiming third place, and then was ranked fourth in the 40m freestyle and fifth in the 40m backstroke, 40m butterfly, and 800m IM.

Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy appeared in the finals of four events and

placed third in the 40m backstroke, fourth in the 80m IM and 40m butterfly, and fifth in the 40m breaststroke.

The A Finals featured the Top 5 finishers in the preliminary races that took place during the morning session of the competition. The sixth to 10th placers then swam in the B Finals held in the afternoon, alongside the A Finals.

Tammy won the 40m freestyle B Finals with her time of 29.95 seconds, See **SWEEP** on **Page 26**

CNMI sends 3 delegates to World Championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb leads the lean CNMI delegation to the 2011 IAAF World Championships in Daegu, Korea.



Tebuteb, who left Saipan last Sunday, will be attending the 48th IAAF Congress set for Aug. 24 and 25 at the EXCO-Daegu, a world-class, high-tech exhibition conven-

tion center. He will be joined in Korea by sprinters Orrin Joseph Ogumoro Pharin and Yvonne Bennett.

At the Congress, Tebuteb and other representatives of the more than 200 International Association of Athletics Federations members will select the

new officers of the IAAF. Senegal's Lamine Diack is running unopposed for president anew, while six individuals are vying for the four vice president seats. For the lone honorary treasurer position, three are running, while 10

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